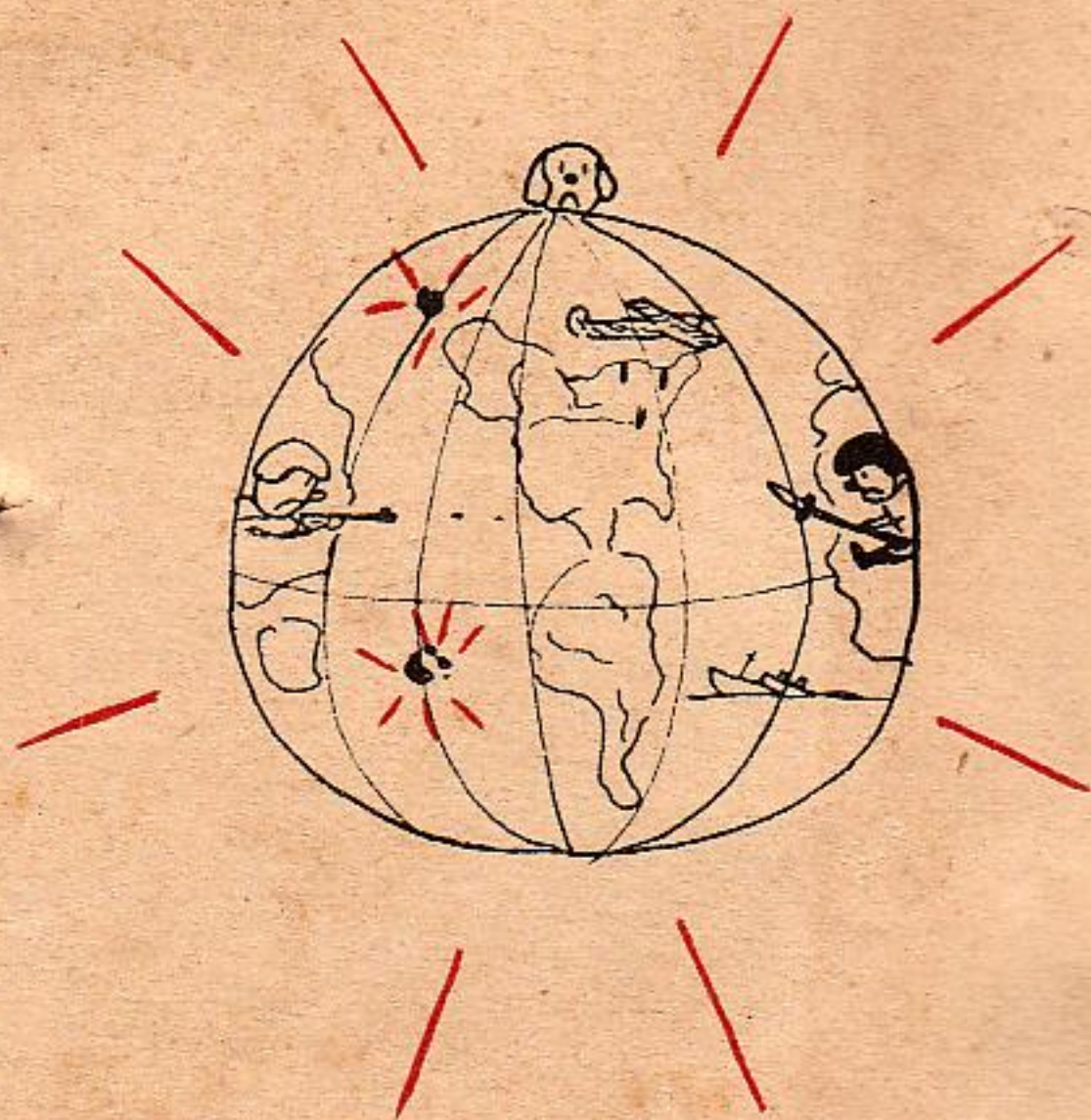


LET'S DO BETTER



by MUNRO LEAF

Let's Do Better



by **Munro Leaf**

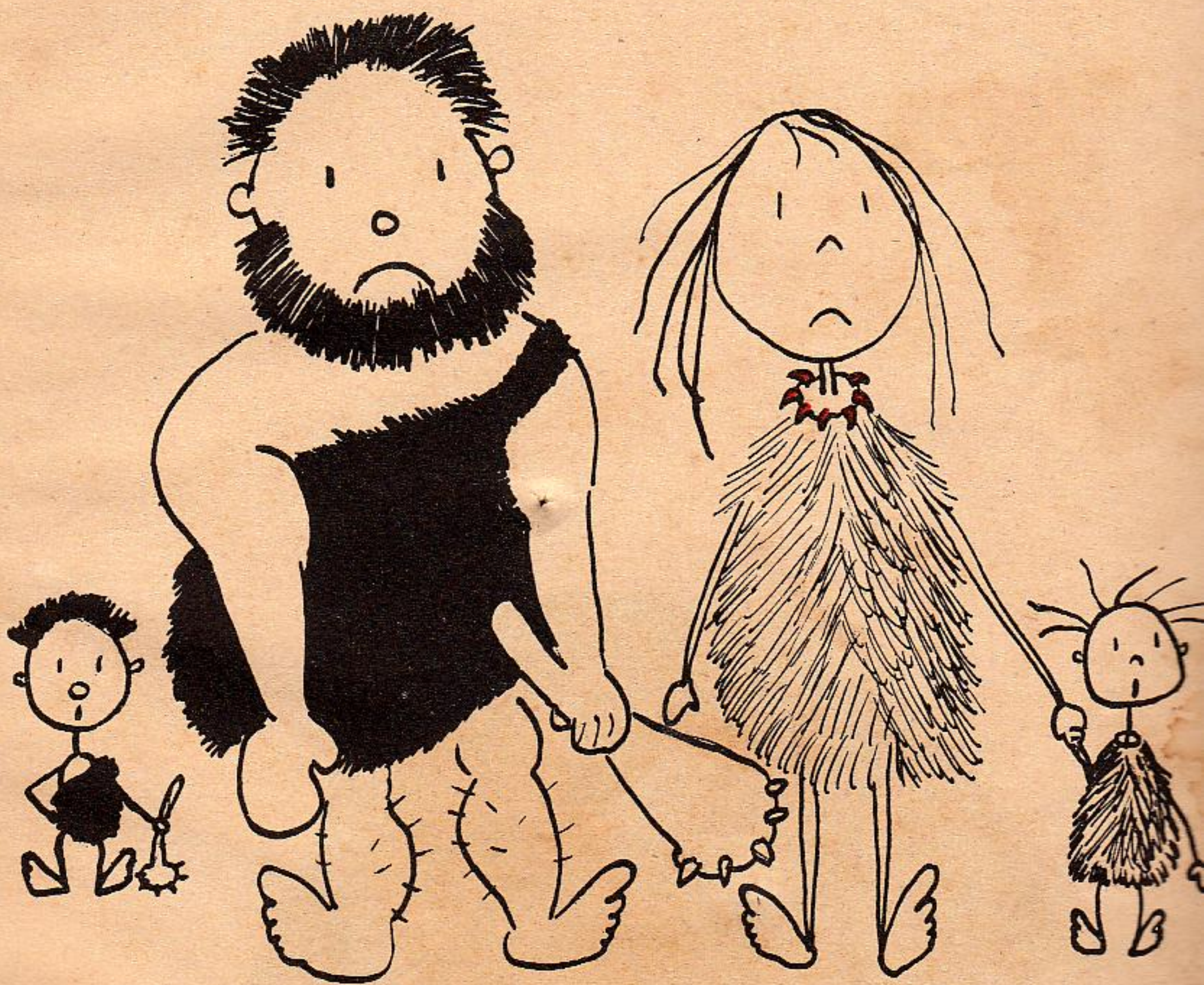
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When our ancestors lived





in dark,



dank caves

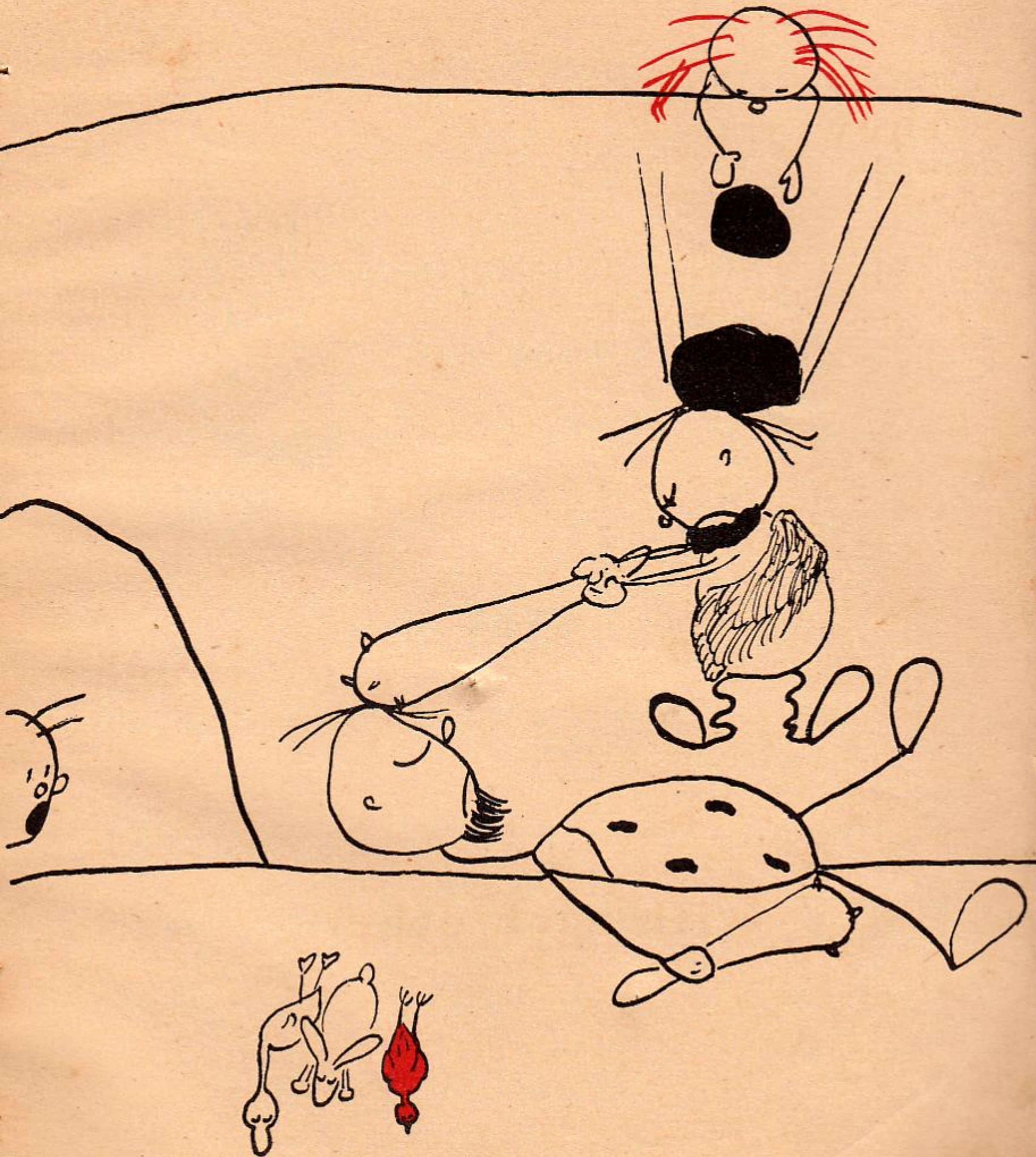
they

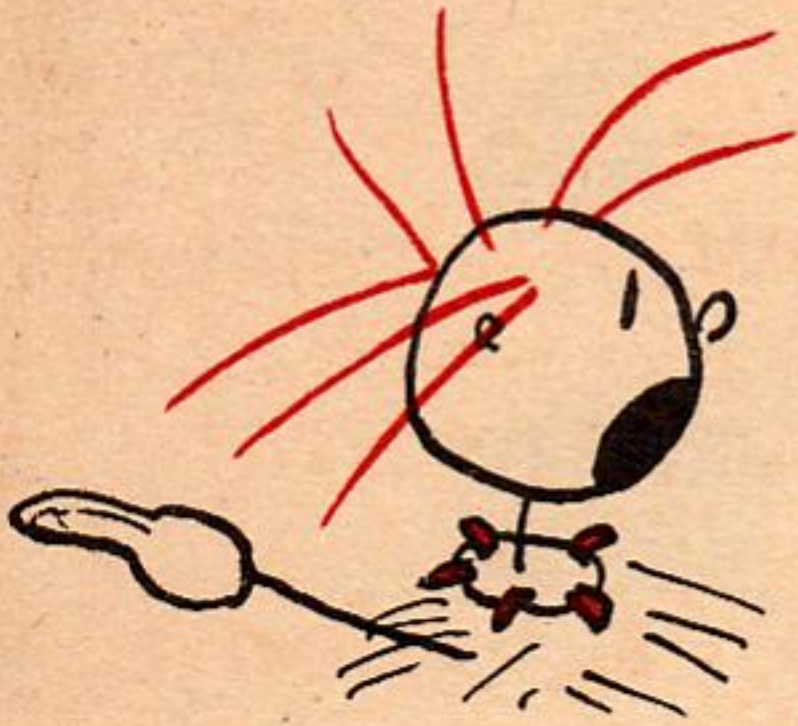
were

very

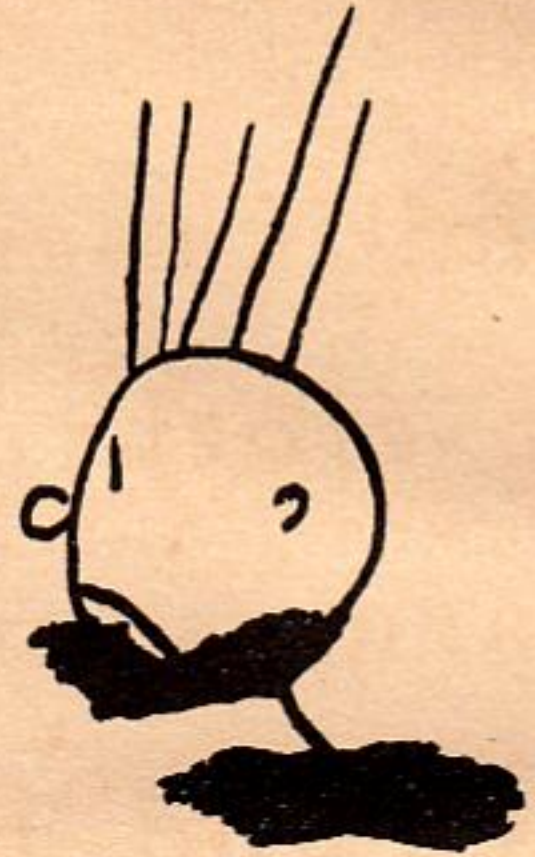
rough

with each other.





Everybody



was

scared.

If there wasn't enough food to go around, somebody starved.

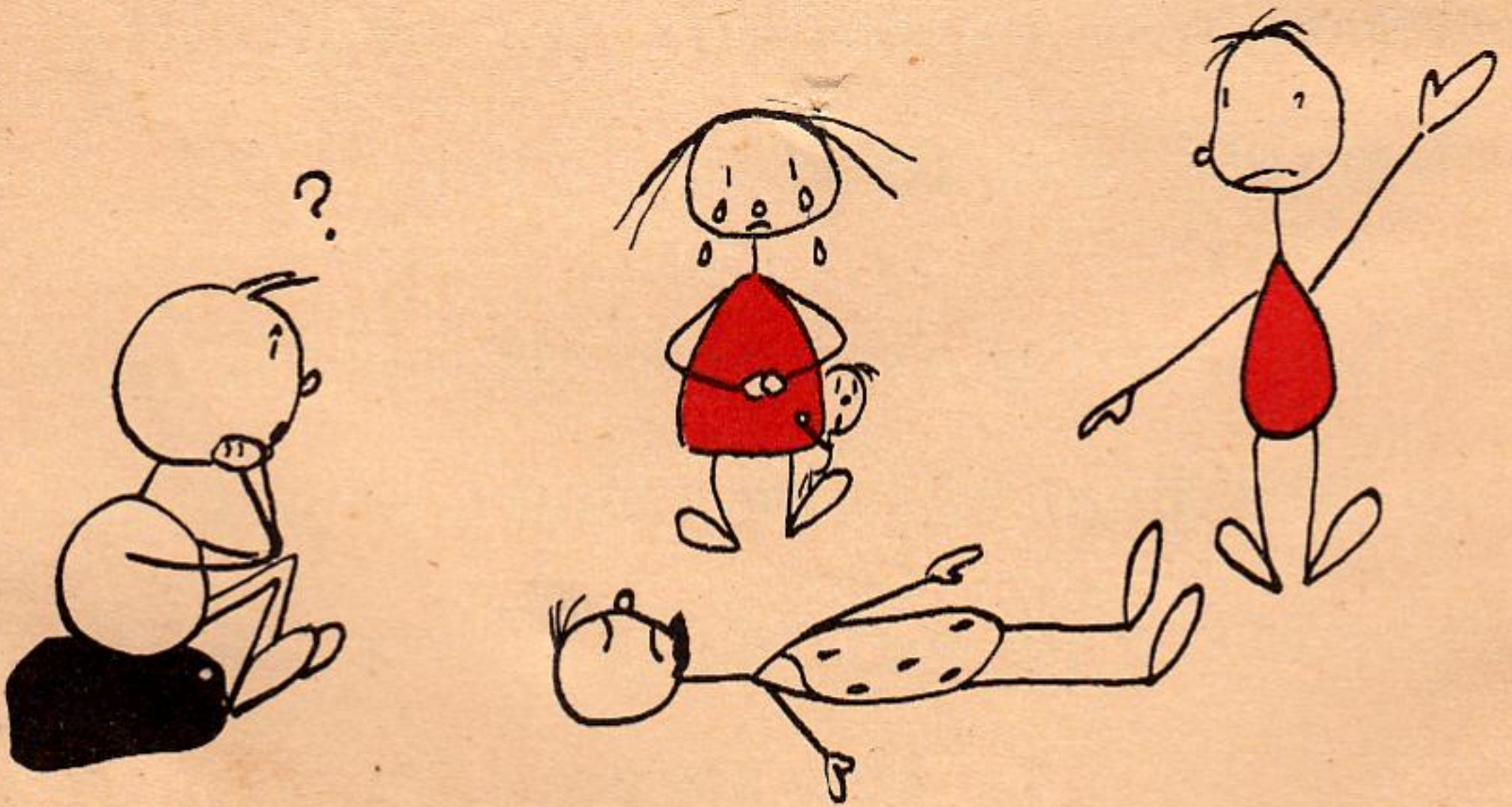
And if there wasn't enough shelter or clothing to keep everybody warm, somebody froze or became sick and died.

So it was everybody for himself or herself just to stay alive.

The strong and the clever people either beat up the others or tricked them into being dead or out of the way.

Some wise people

decided that this was a very stupid
way to go on living, always being
scared of each other.



The very simple idea came

to them that

if some of them could get together

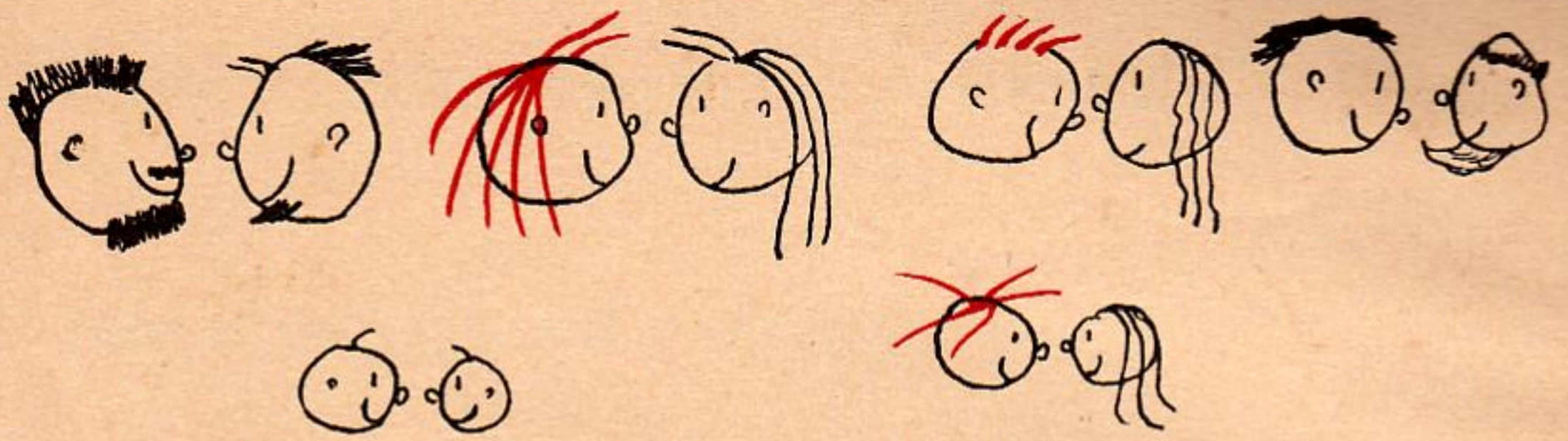
and work together

they could feed themselves, clothe

themselves

and share what shelter there

was or that could be built.



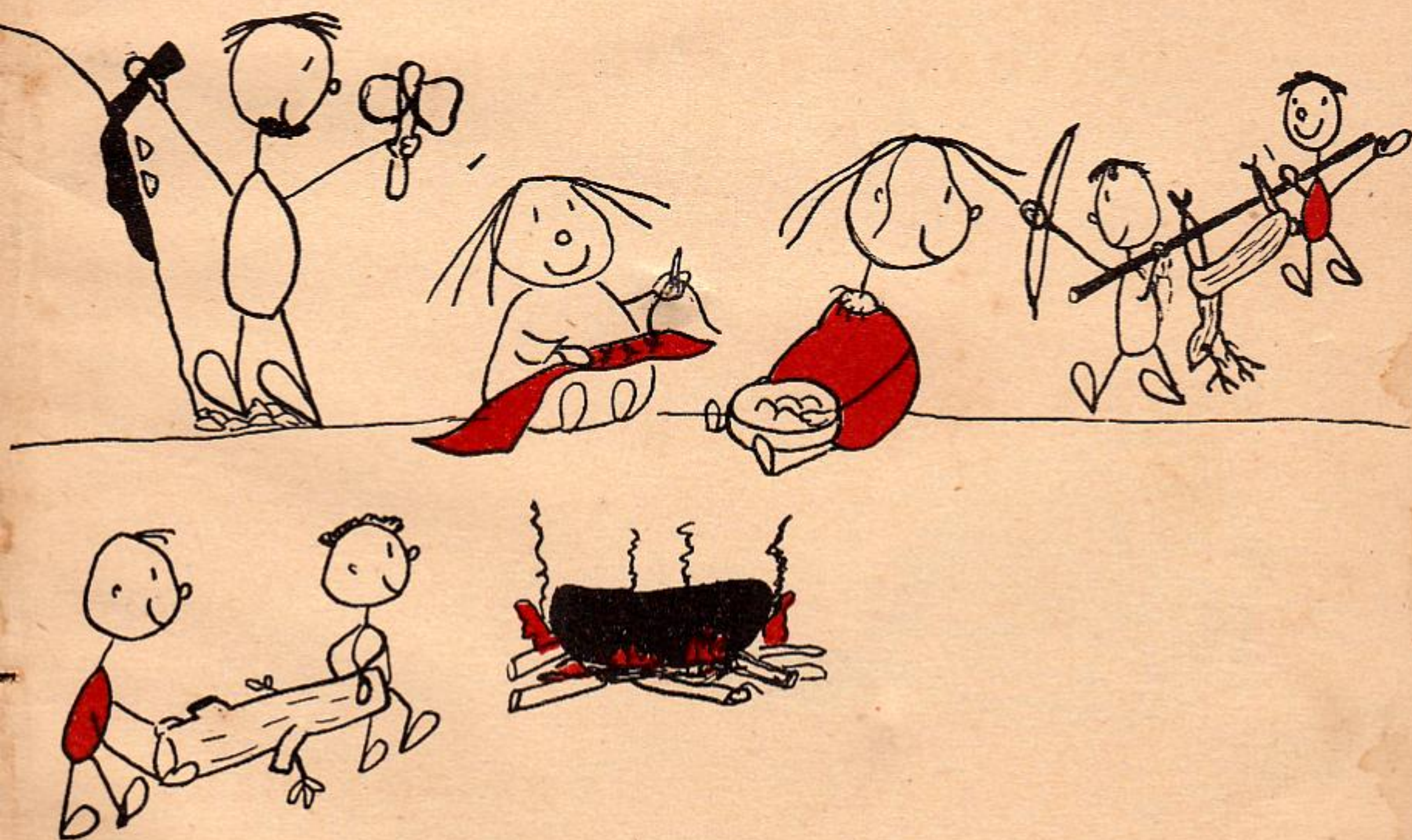
9 So they lived together as

tribes, gangs, groups

or anything

you want to call a lot of people

who live together,



which was a sensible



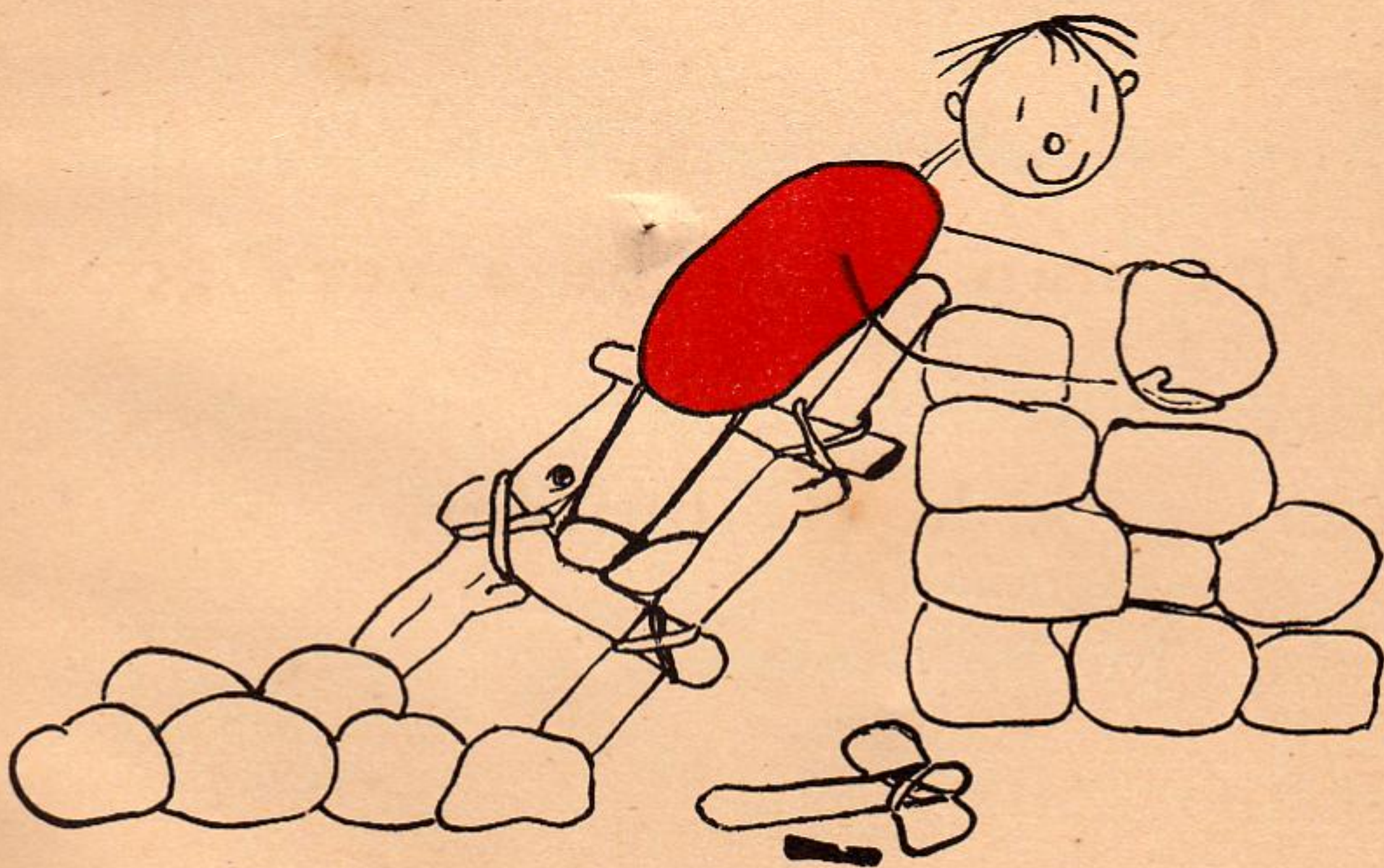
thing to do.



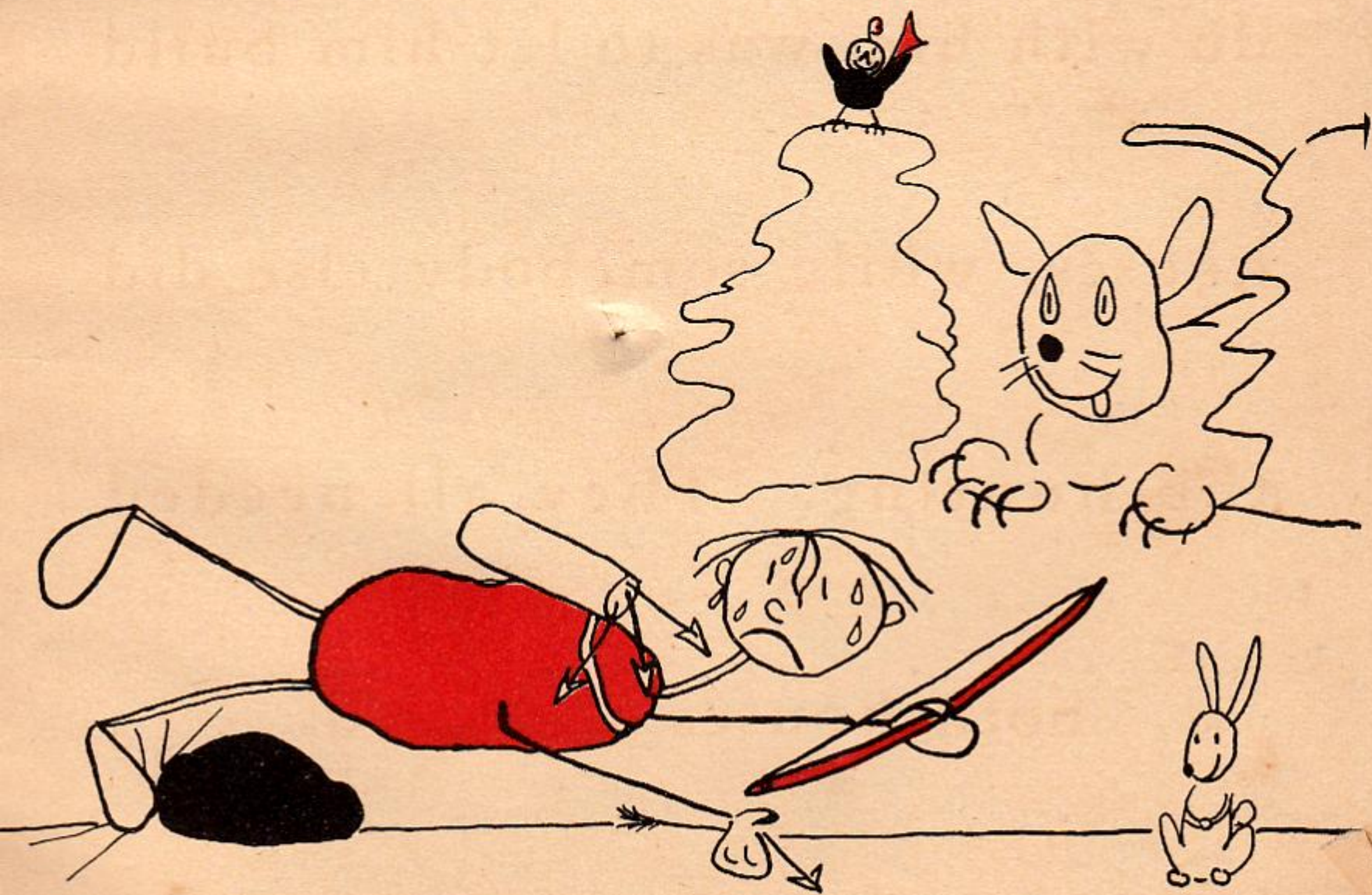
Naturally, some of them could do
certain things better than others
could.

One man might be a very good
house builder,

but he might be

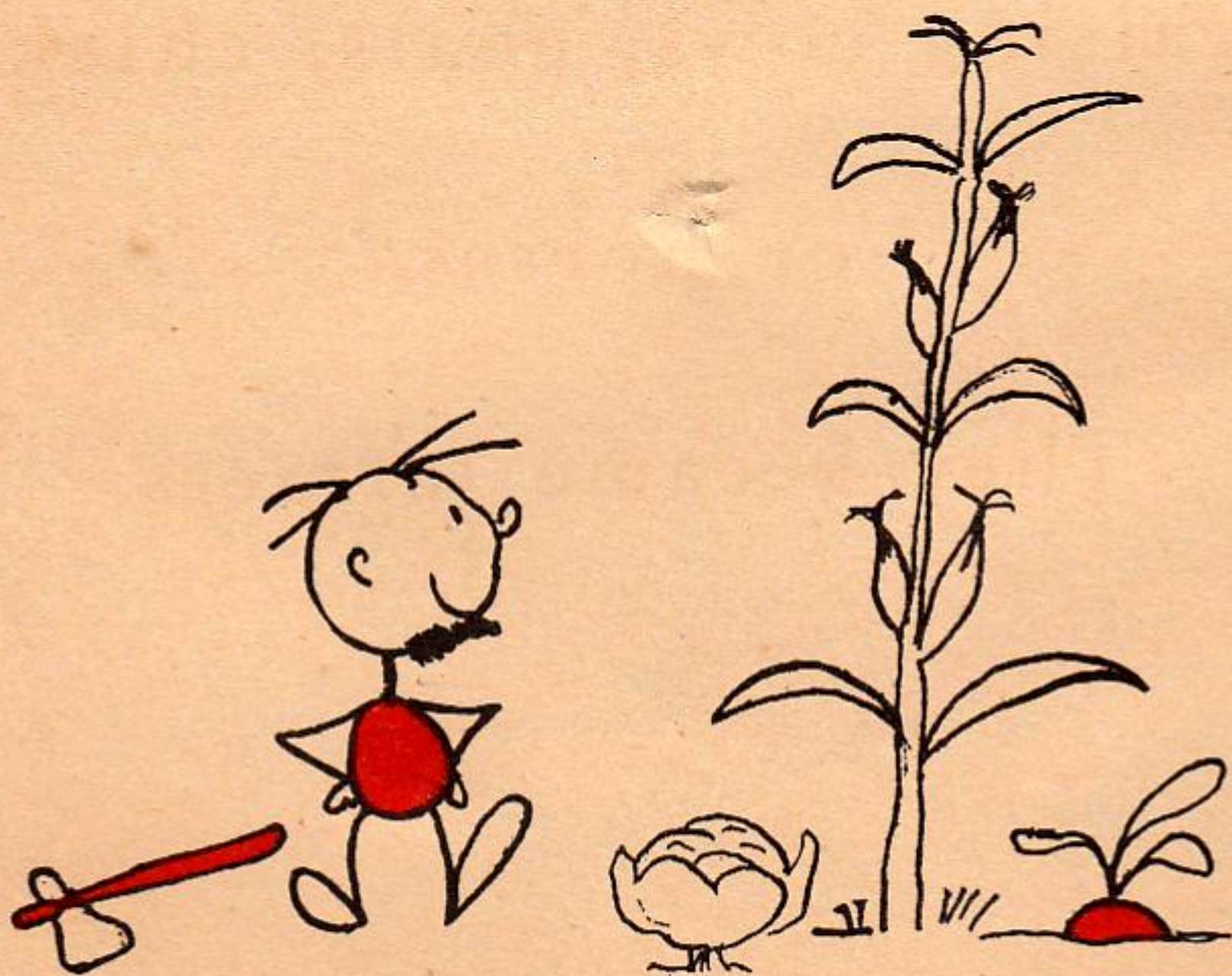


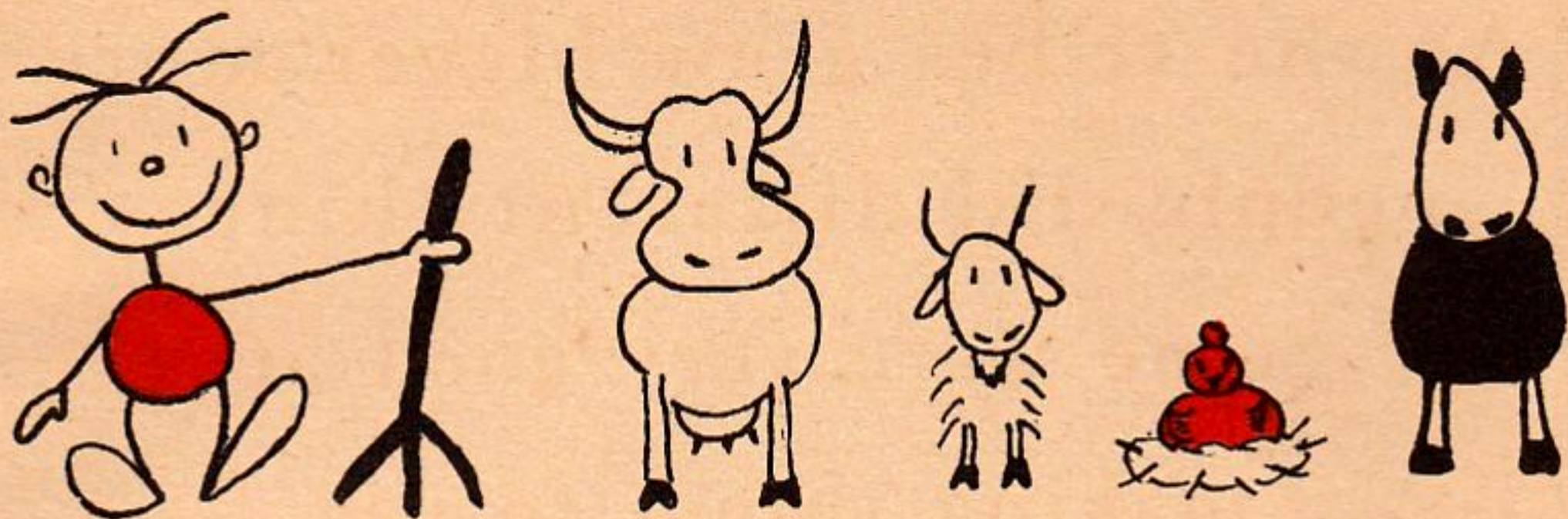
the clumsiest, noisiest hunter in the tribe. The sensible thing to do with him was to let him build houses, while somebody else did the hunting. They all needed both houses and food.



As the tribes grew bigger more
people did different things.

Some were very good at
making things to eat
grow out of
the ground,





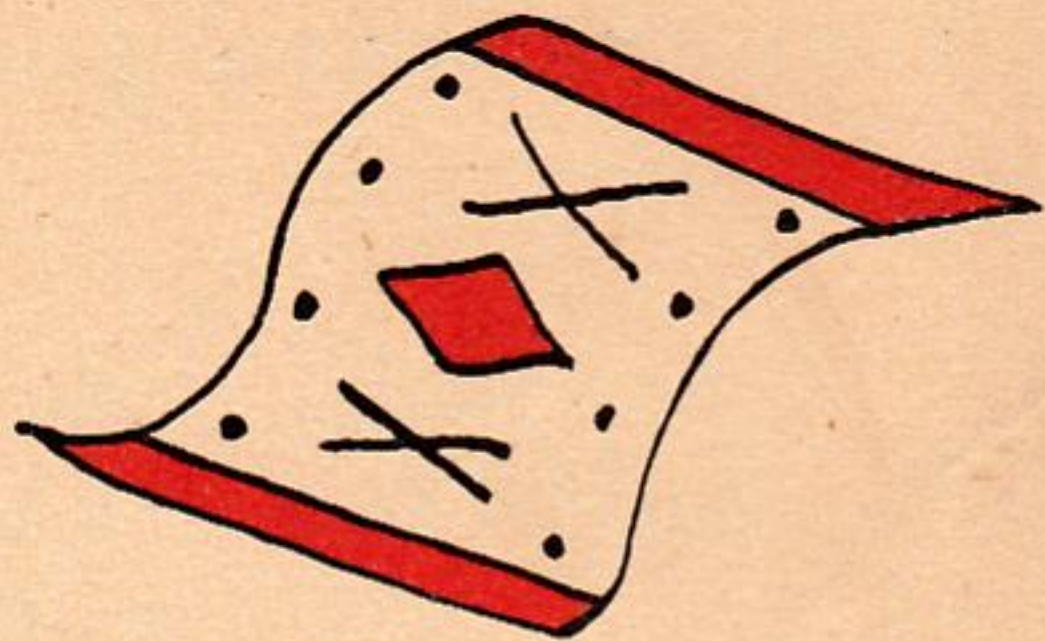
or raising cows, goats, chickens
or horses.

They became farmers.

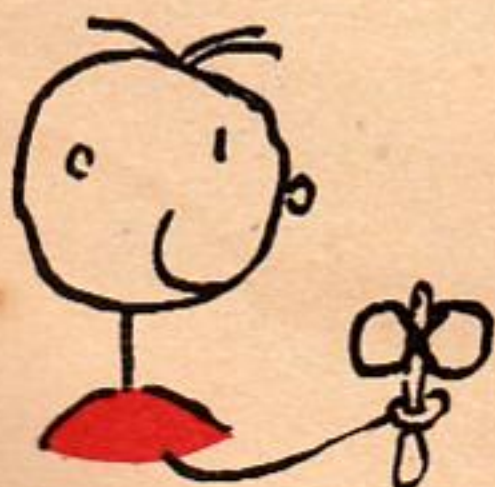


Some could make
bows and arrows
or
pots and pans
or

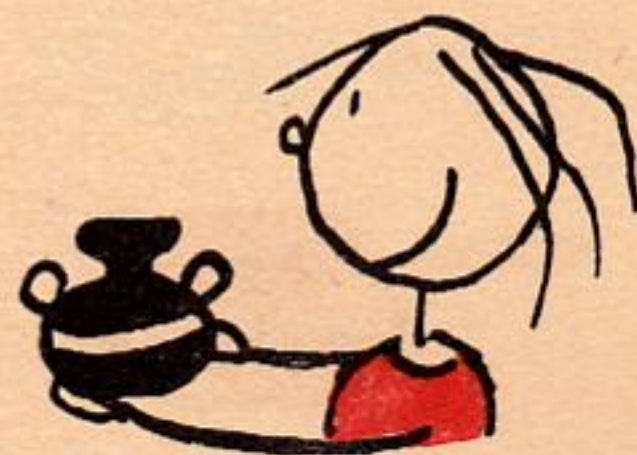




clothes
and
blankets—
they became manufacturers.



23



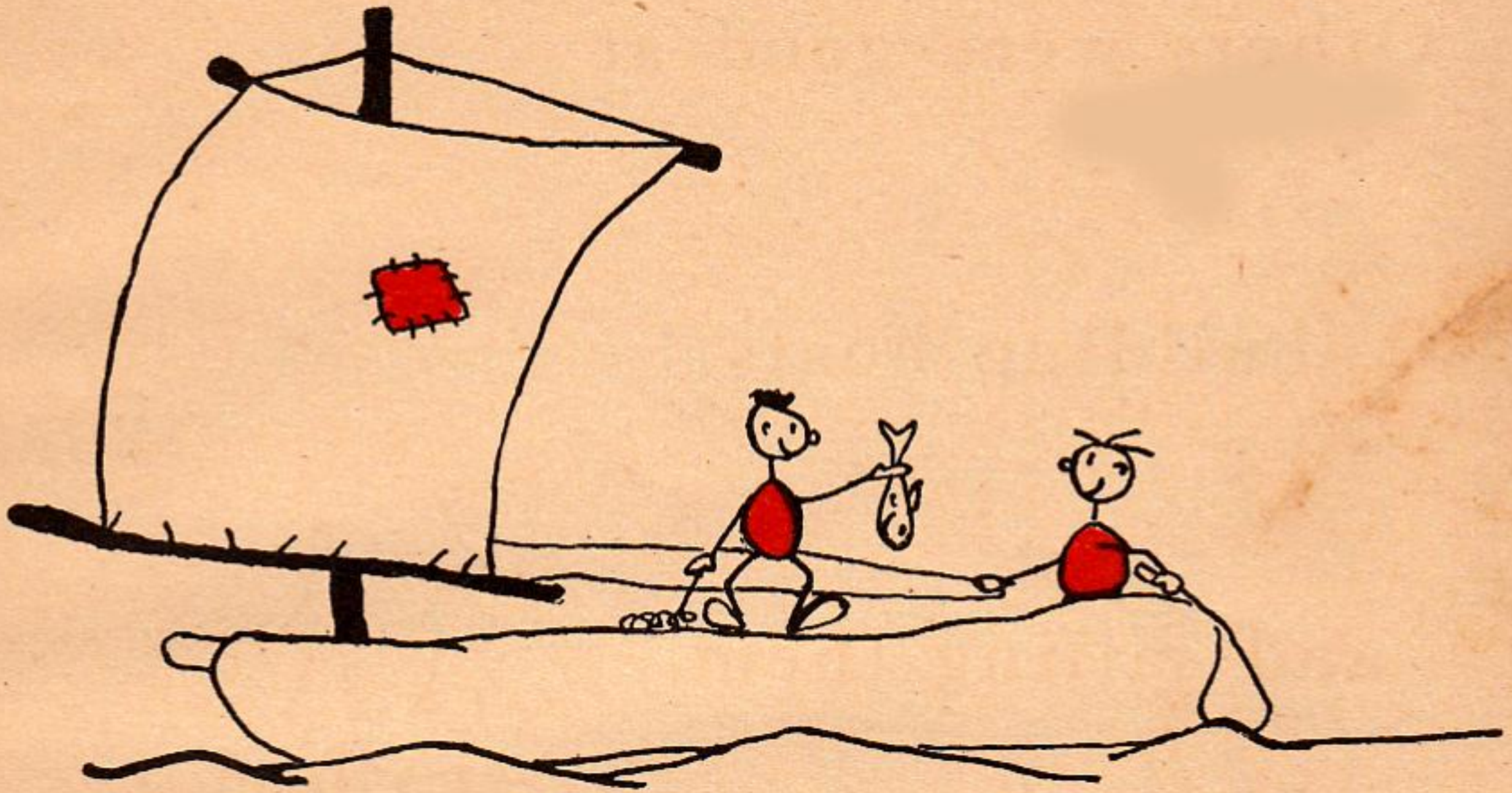
24

Others were good at

building boats

and sailing them.

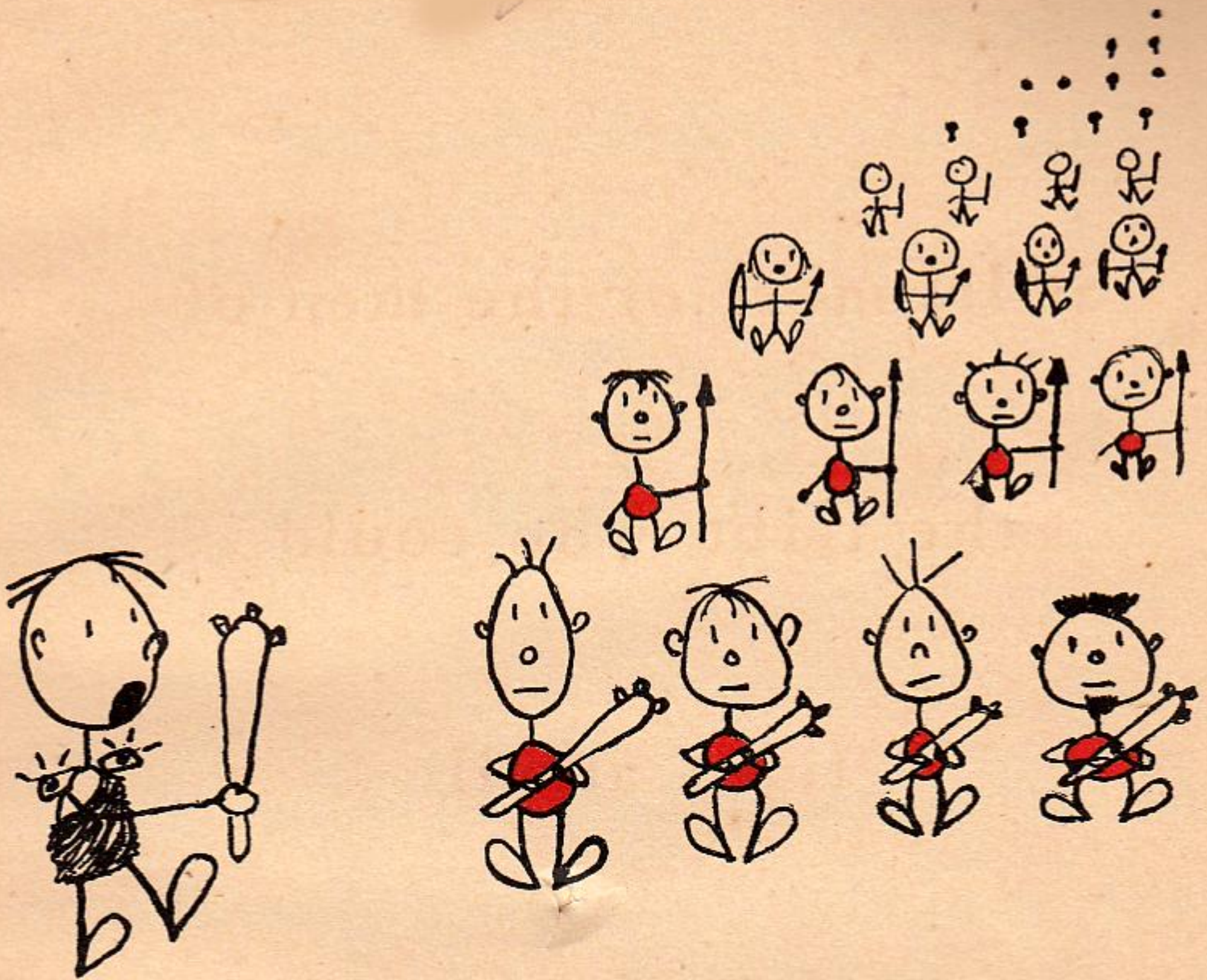




They became ship builders

and sailors.

Still, most of the men of
the tribe who could
fight at all
had to be
soldiers.



The reason for that
was just this:

There were always other tribes
living somewhere not far away,



and if they didn't have as good
food or shelter or clothing as others
they would try to take them.

That always wound up in a fight.
If the tribes were big enough, then
the fights were big enough to be
battles

and the whole mess was
called a

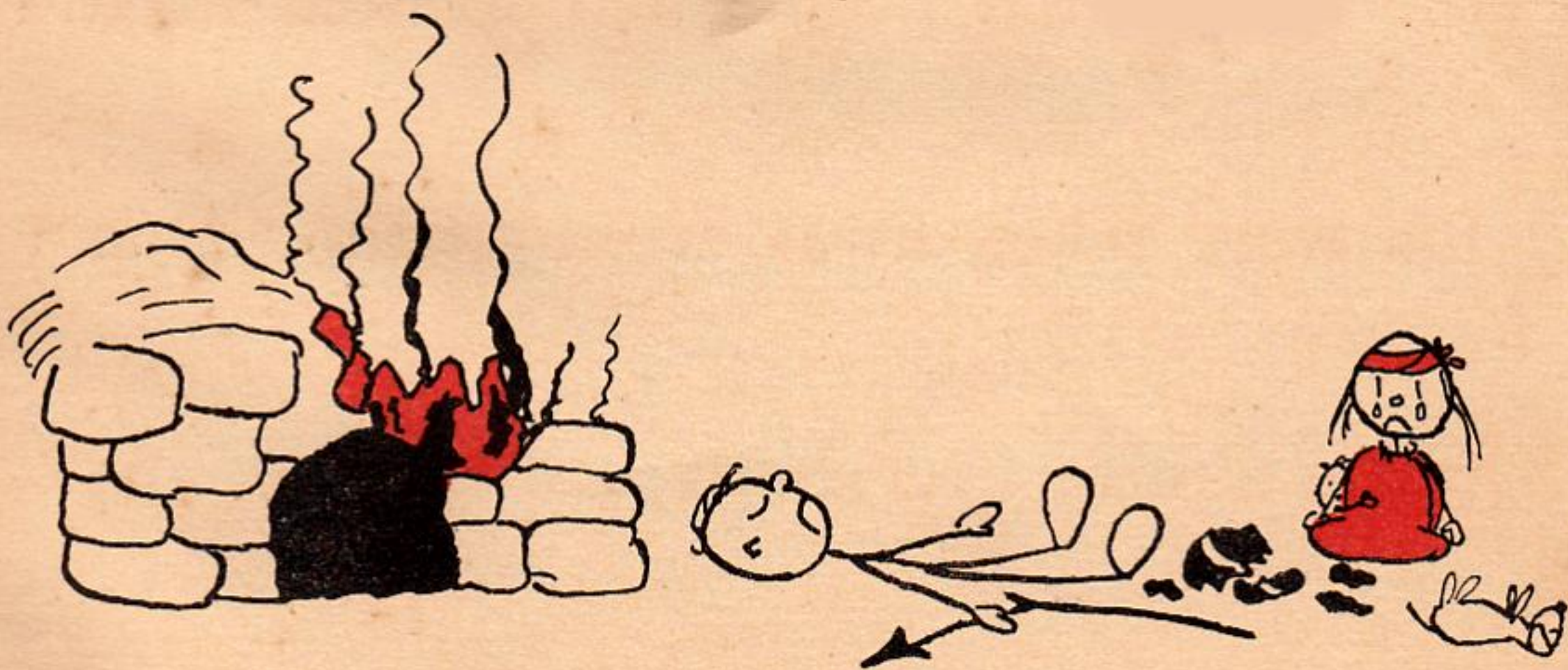


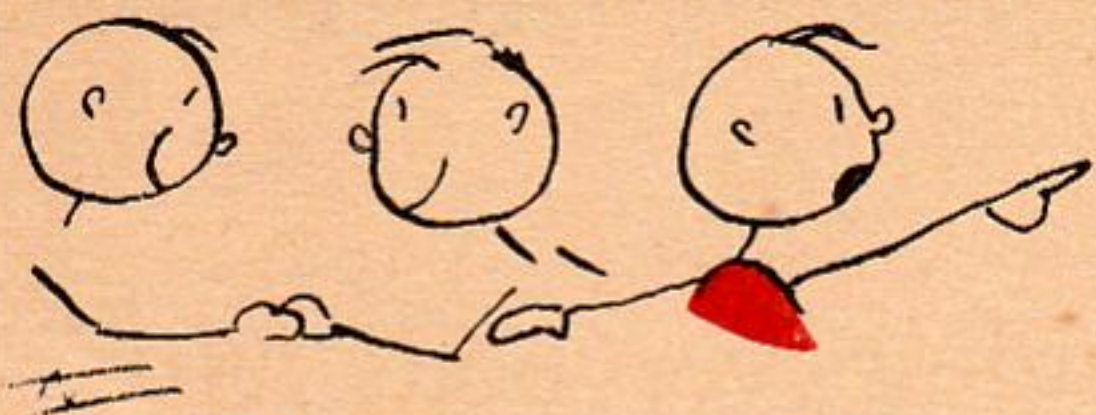
WAR

In these wars—in any wars—somebody
always got hurt.

Some were killed, homes were smashed and
the things that people had worked hard
for were taken away from them. That
made almost everybody unhappy.

No matter which side won or lost, there were always a lot of people on both sides who were made very miserable.





The worst of it was that if one tribe or gang or nation decided that war was foolish it didn't dare to go on living sensibly by just helping each other and trusting other tribes to do the same. Sooner or later another tribe would attack them and kill them. No matter how right they might be.

The sensible and the happy way of living
just wouldn't work—unless everybody felt
the same way about it. That is just as true
today as it ever was in the days of our
ancestors.

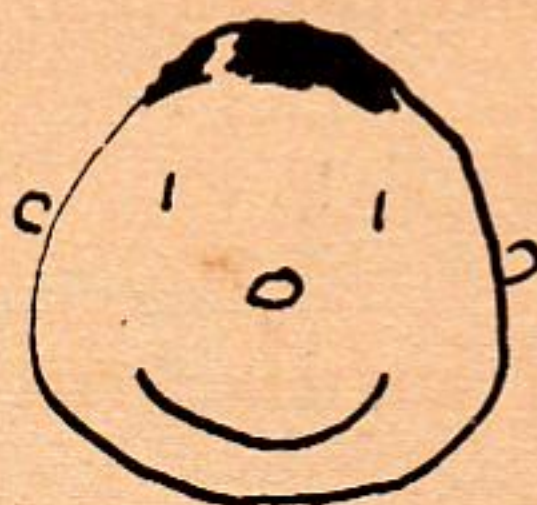
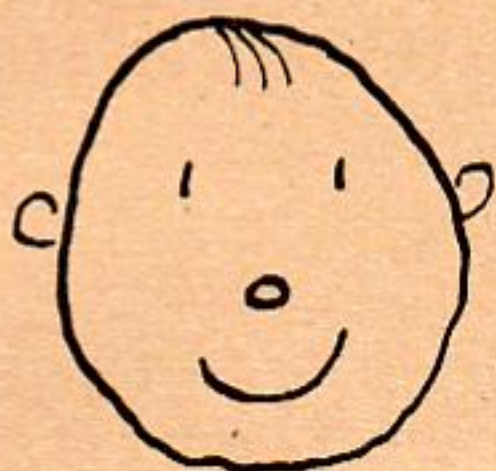


Now the people who have always had the
most to do with how we live anywhere in
the world have been the
Thinkers.

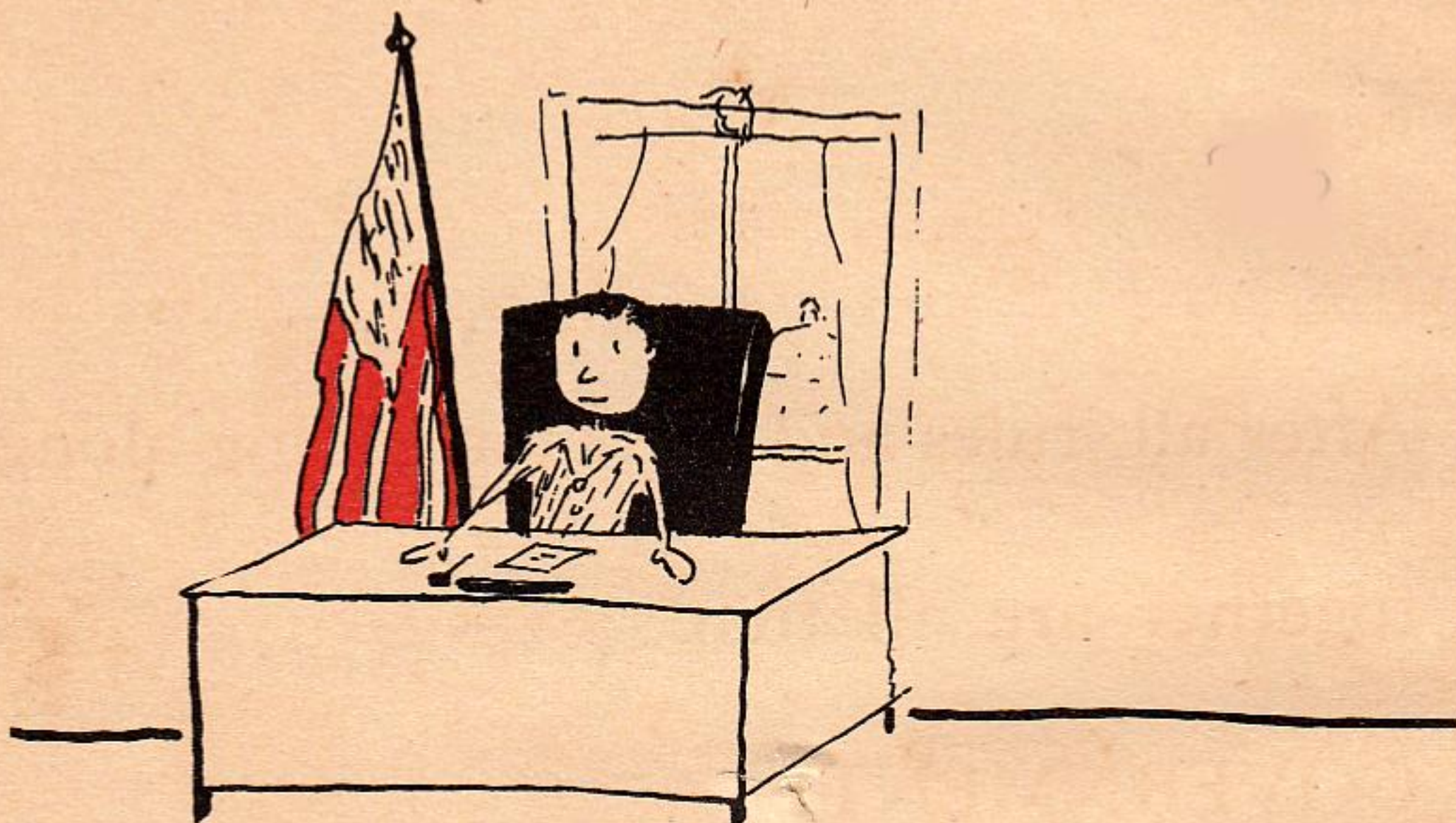


These *Thinkers* can be divided into three
different kinds and two of the three kinds
can be good for us all.

The third kind is always getting us into
trouble.



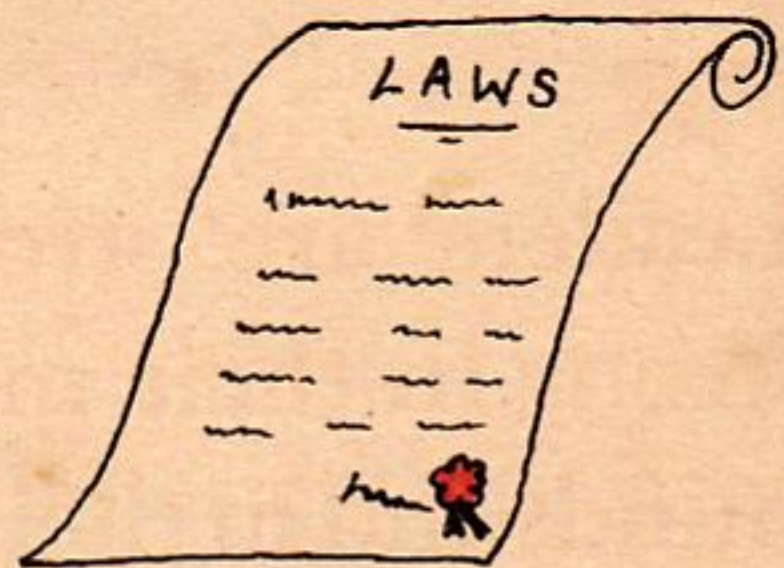
The first kind of Thinker and probably the most important, is the Leader.



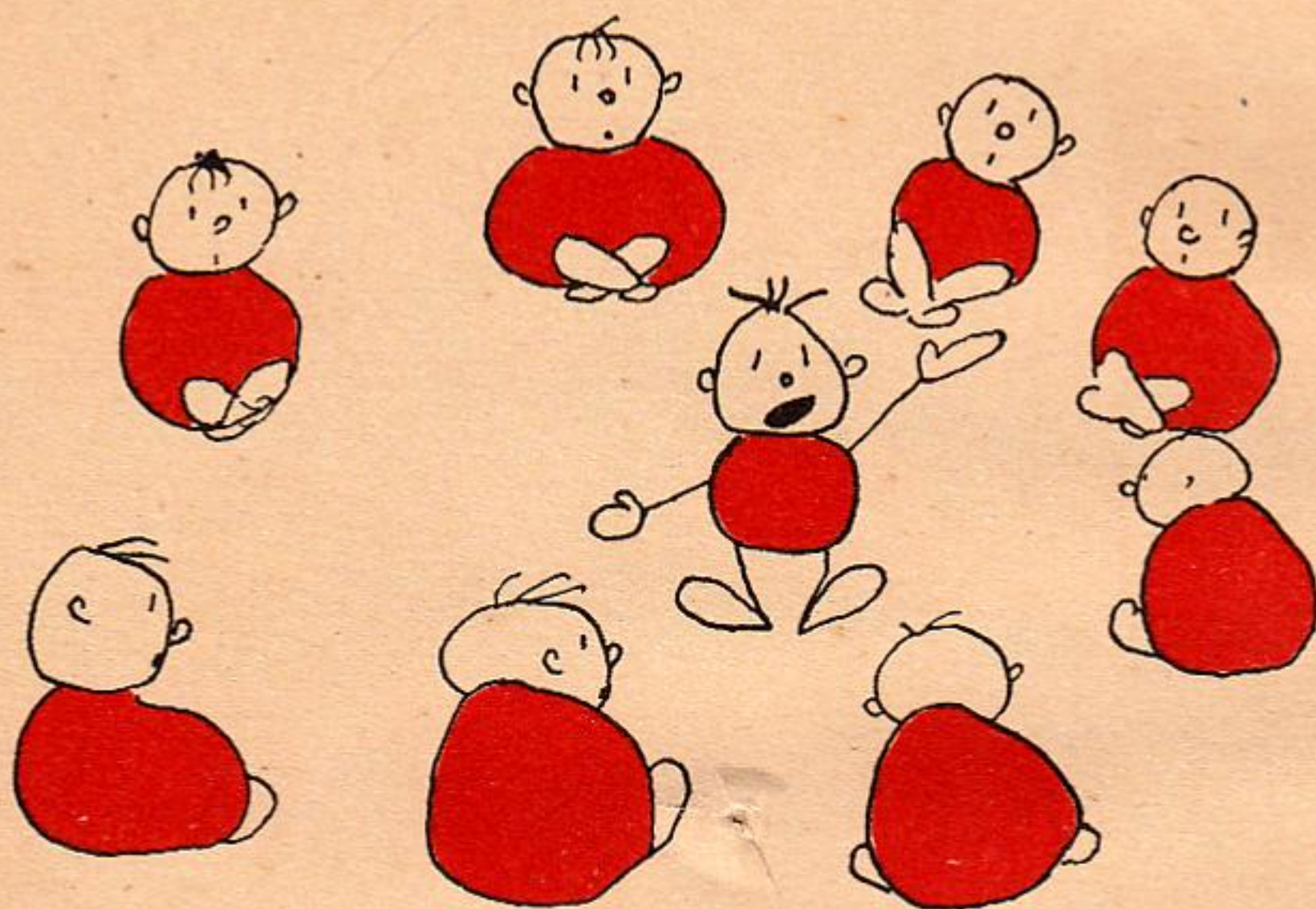
Leaders are strong people. Not always strong in their muscles, but strong in their minds and in their power to get other people to do things the way that the Leader thinks is best for them.

Good Leaders are always trying to think up ways for people to get along together better.

After all, rules and ways for getting along together are all that
GOVERNMENT
really is.

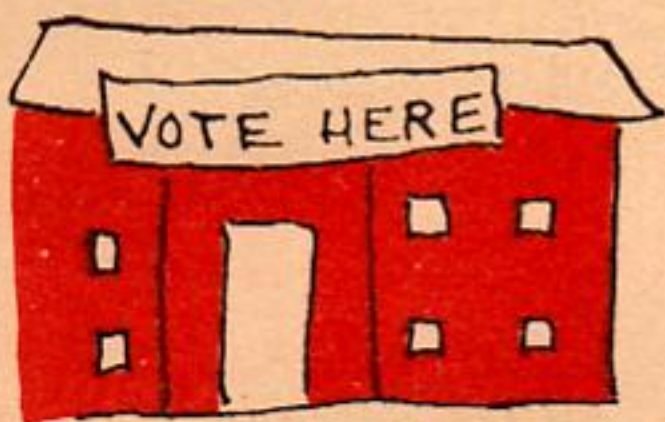


Not all tribes picked their leaders the same way



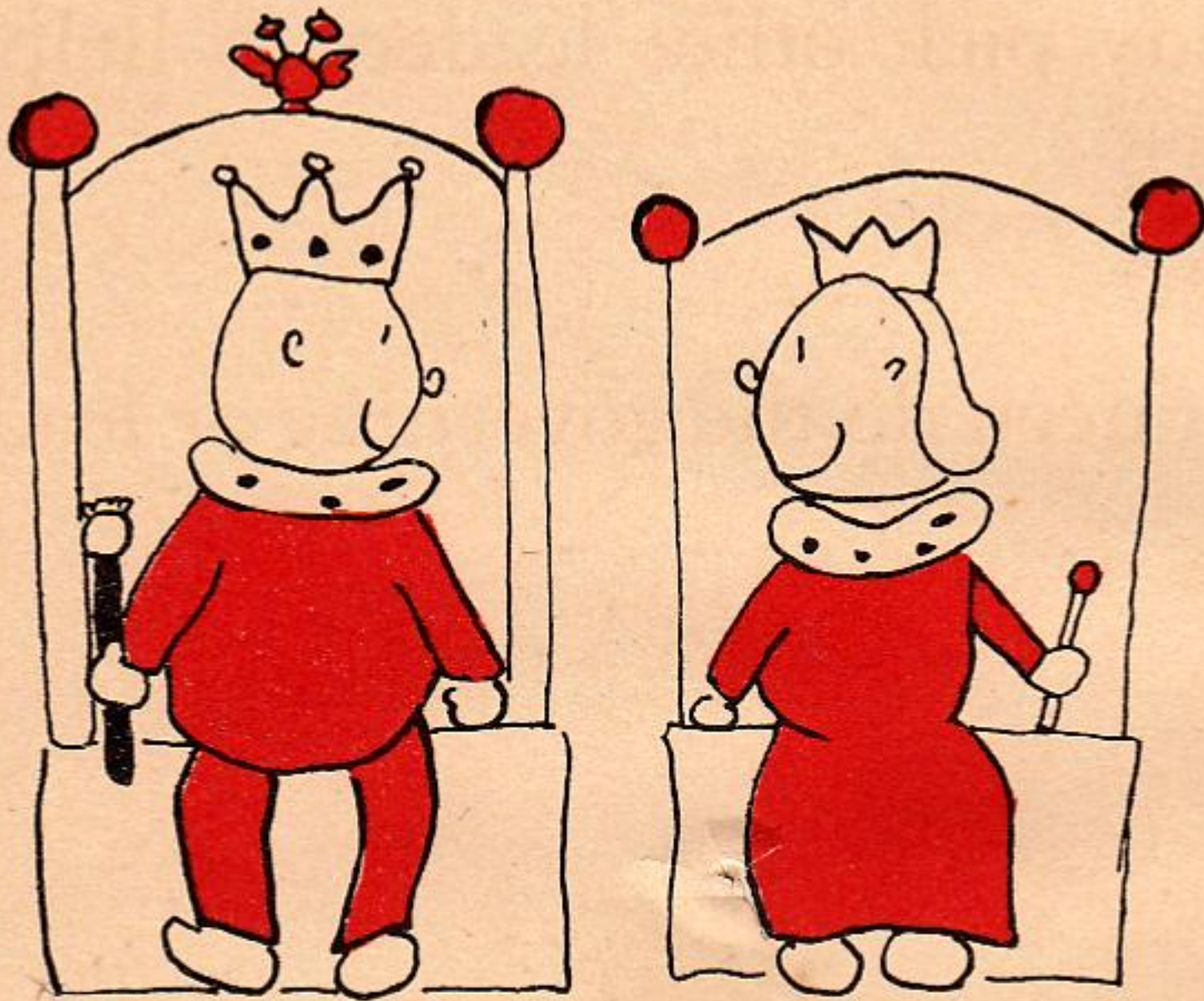
and we still don't, now that we, the people of the world, are divided up into countries or nations.

Some countries pick a leader by asking nearly everybody who he or she thinks should be the one. The one most people want is made leader.



That is very much the way we do it in this country, and we call that way, Democracy.

Some other nations do it differently.

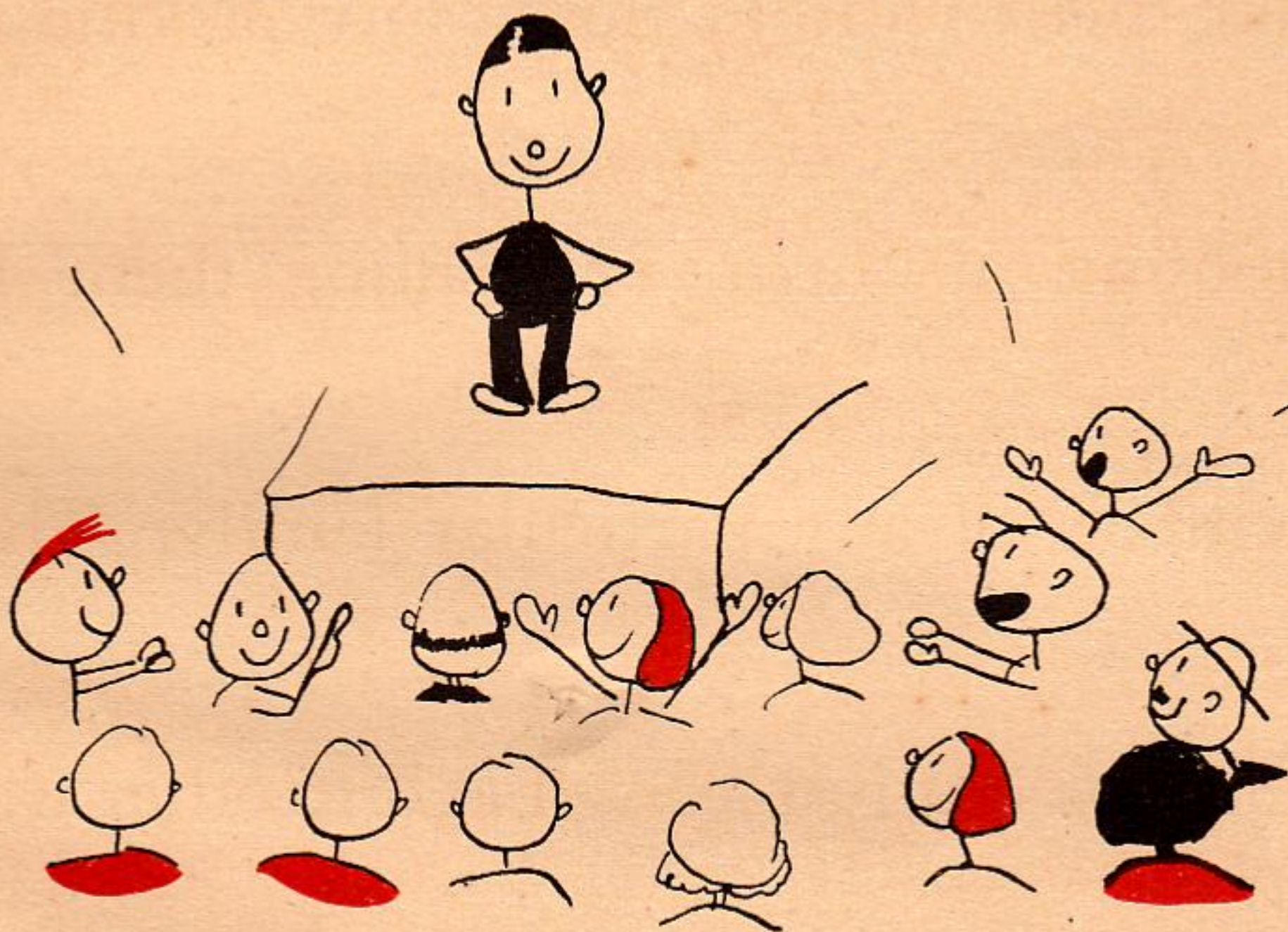


They let members of just one family be the leaders and call them kings or queens.

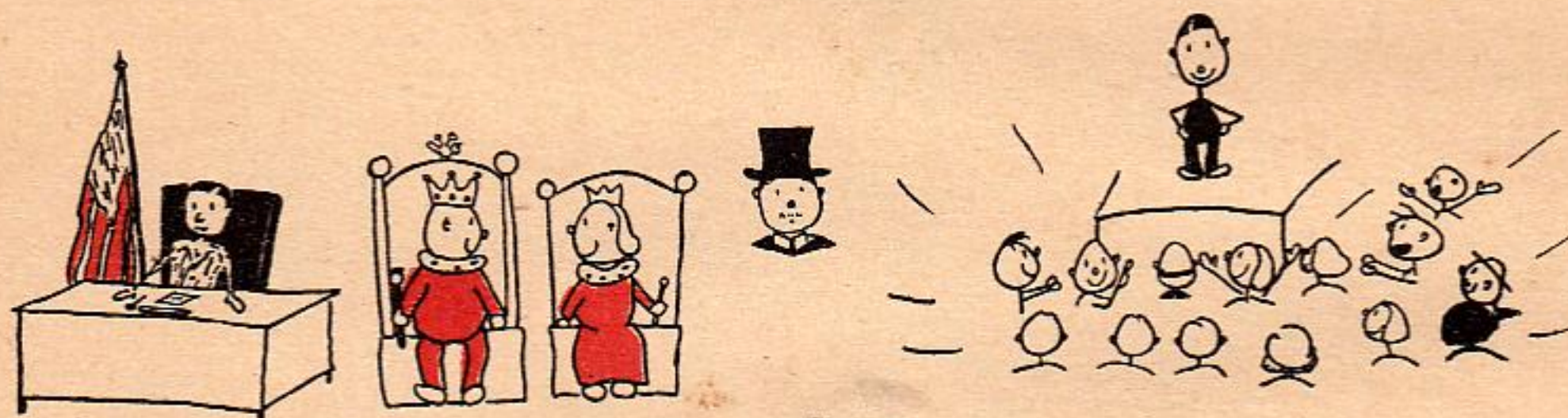
Some of those countries also let nearly everybody pick other leaders to help the king or queen do the governing or leading.



Still other countries let the strongest men lead them without doing any picking or choosing of them, or making them be members of any particular family. That can work out just as well as any other way if they happen to get good leaders, but it's just too bad if they don't.



There is no country in the world that can say their way of choosing Leaders is the only good way.



The thing that is important is that the Leaders be good ones, no matter how they are chosen.

Besides the leaders who govern us, the people who come next in making us a strong or a weak nation are the second kind of Thinkers.

These are the Makers and Doers.

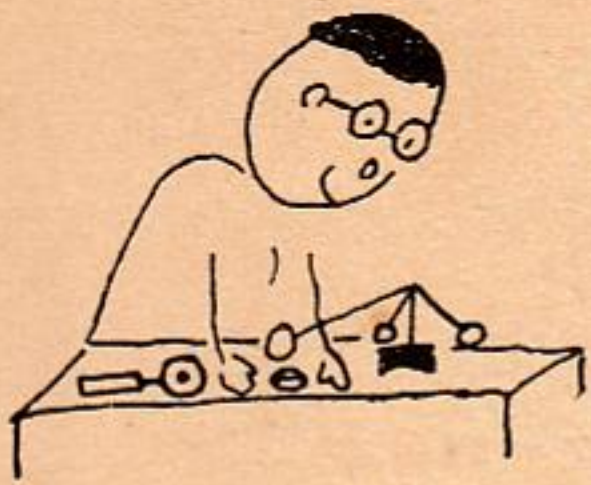




They live in all countries and
they are forever thinking up new



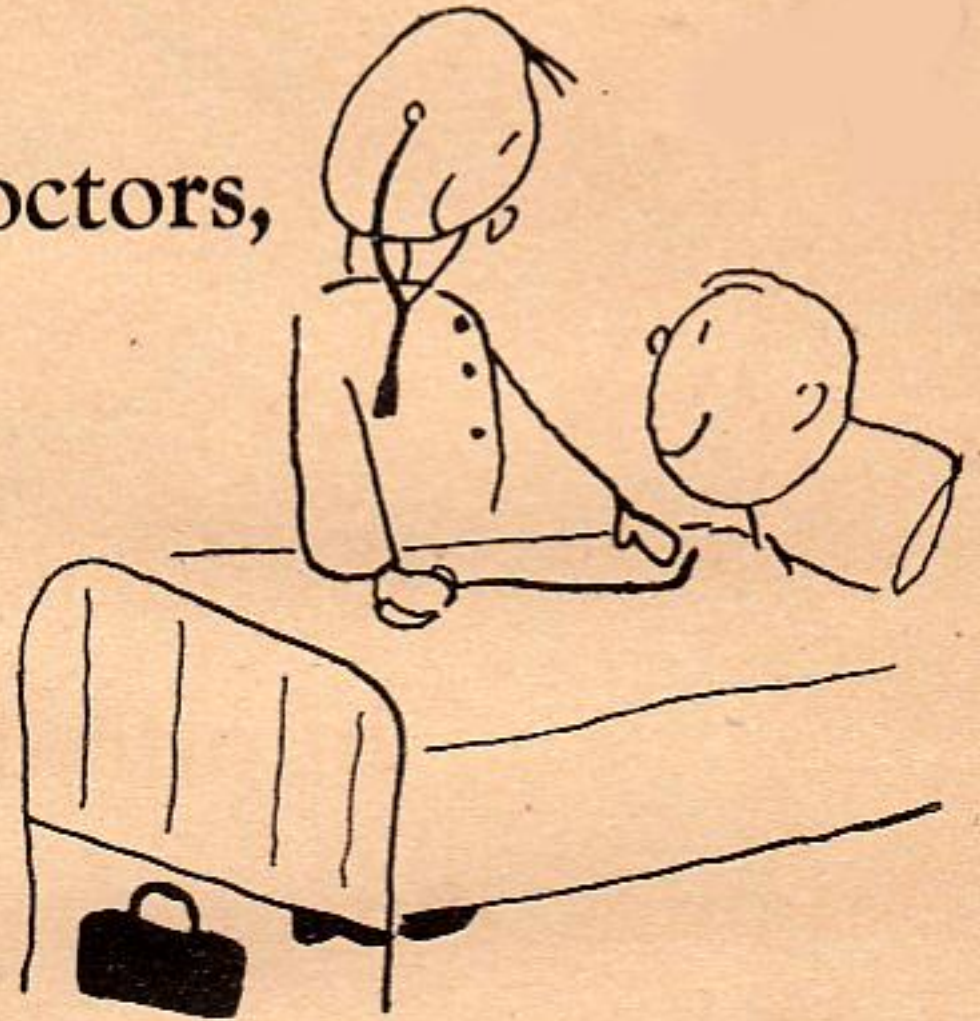
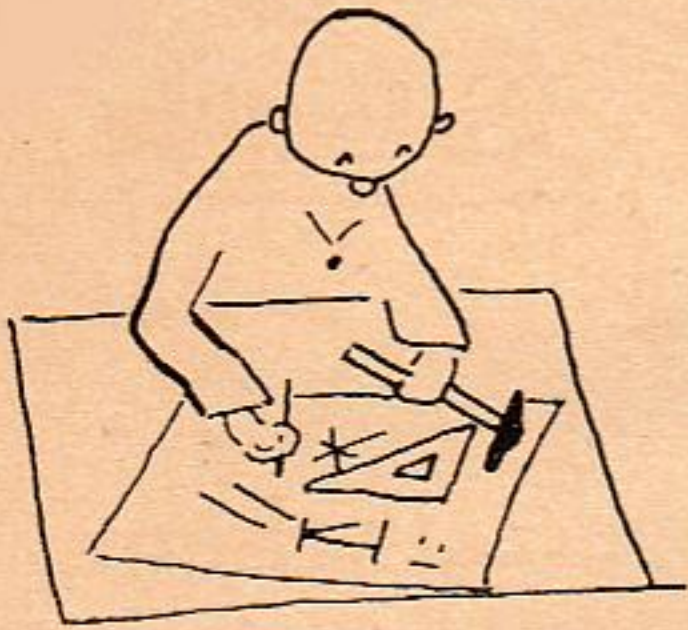
ways to make things and new
ways to do things.



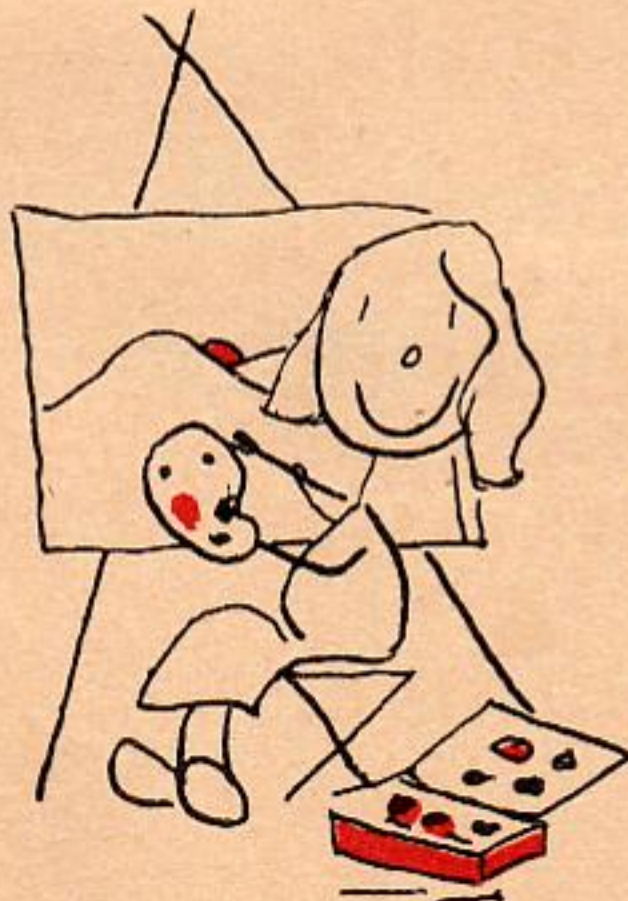
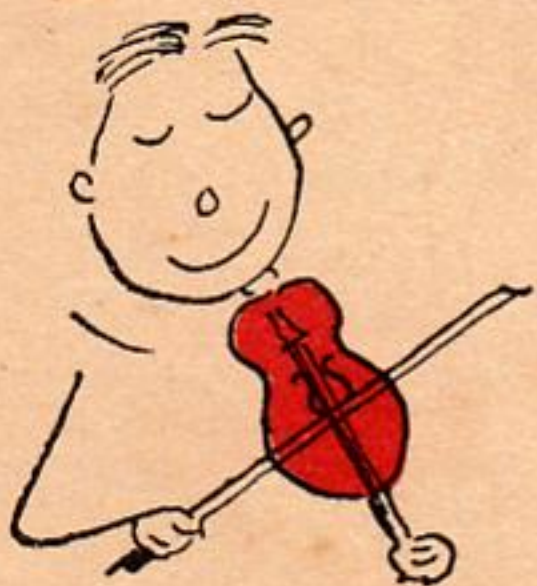
We call them

inventors, scientists,

engineers, doctors,



musicians, artists, writers,



farmers, merchants,



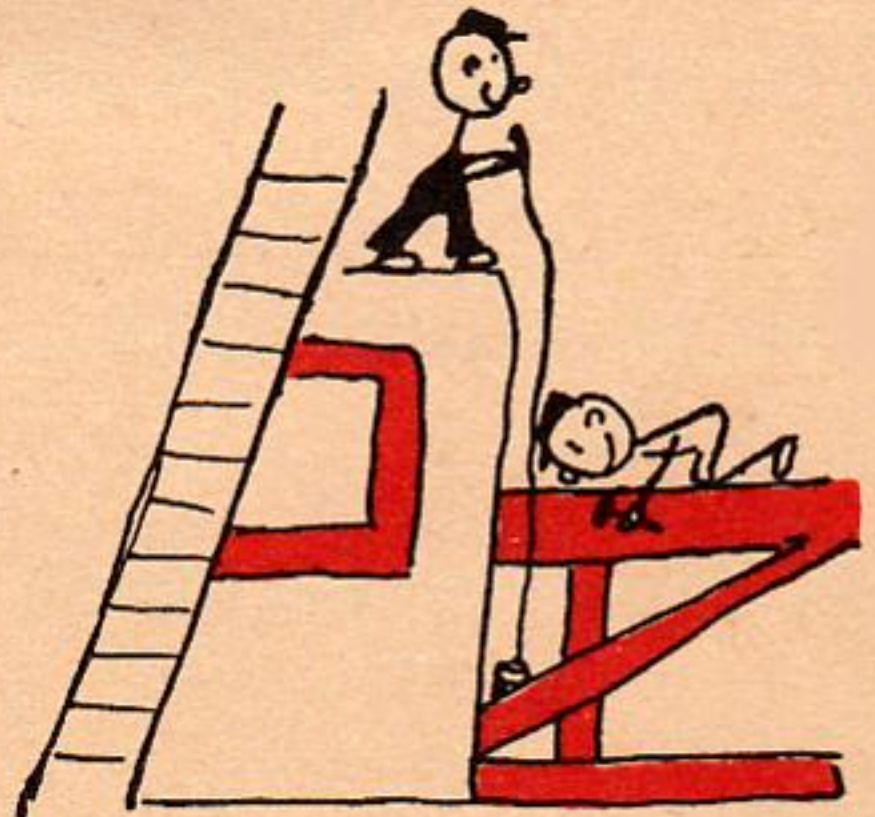
lawyers, workers,
builders, bankers,
and hundreds of other

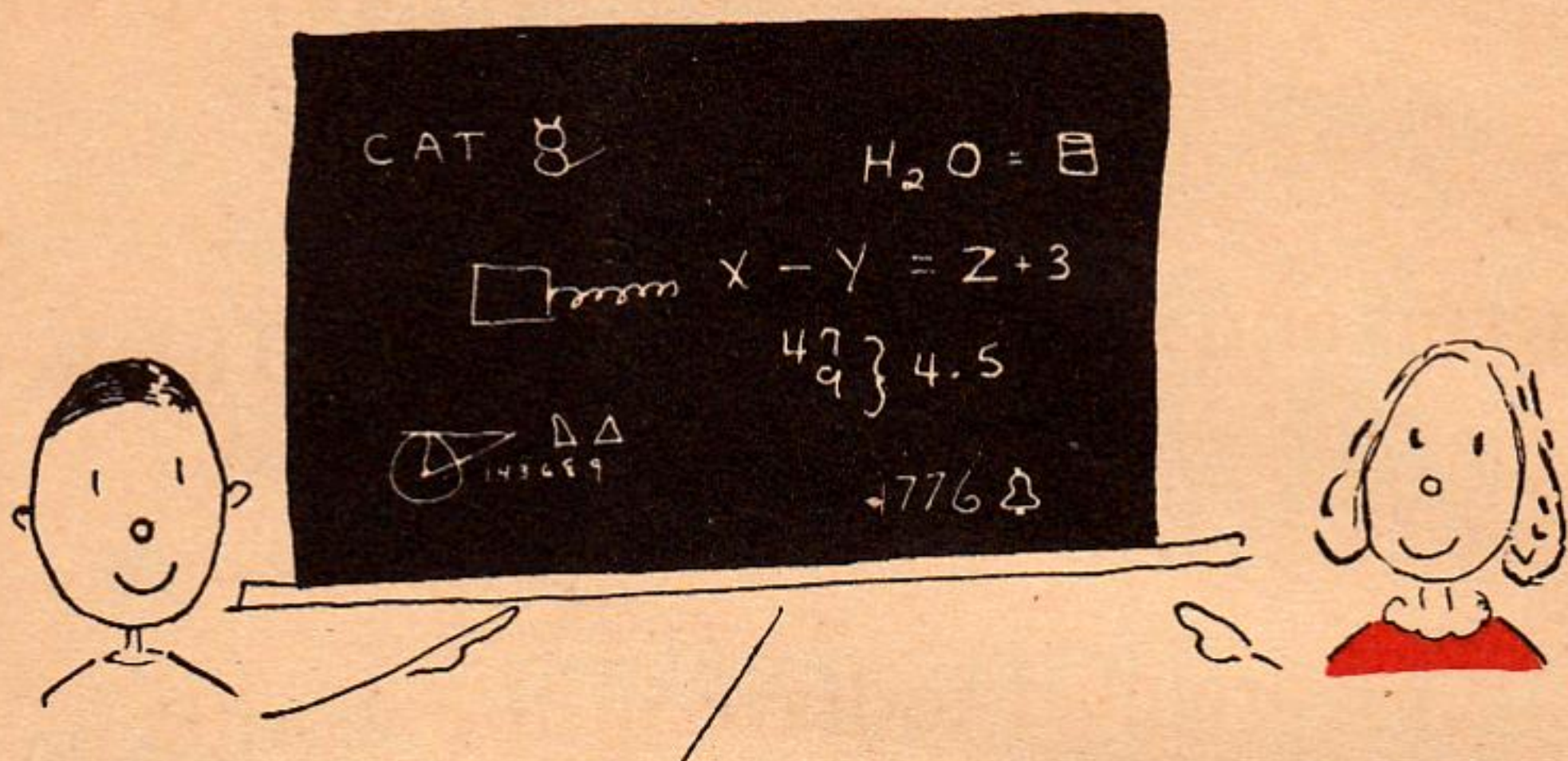


names, but no matter what we call them,
they are the Makers and Doers who by



their
thinking
affect the
way we
all live.

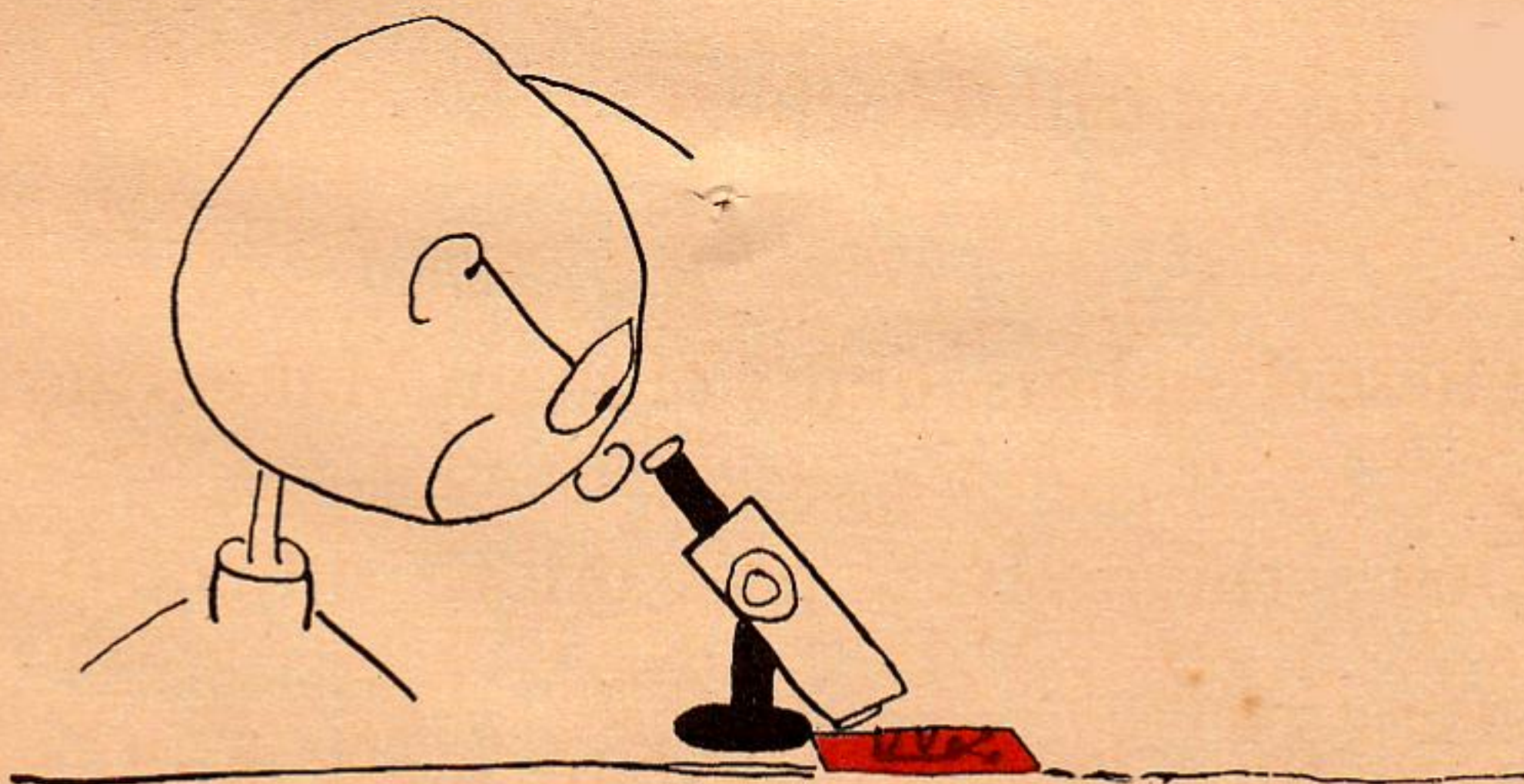




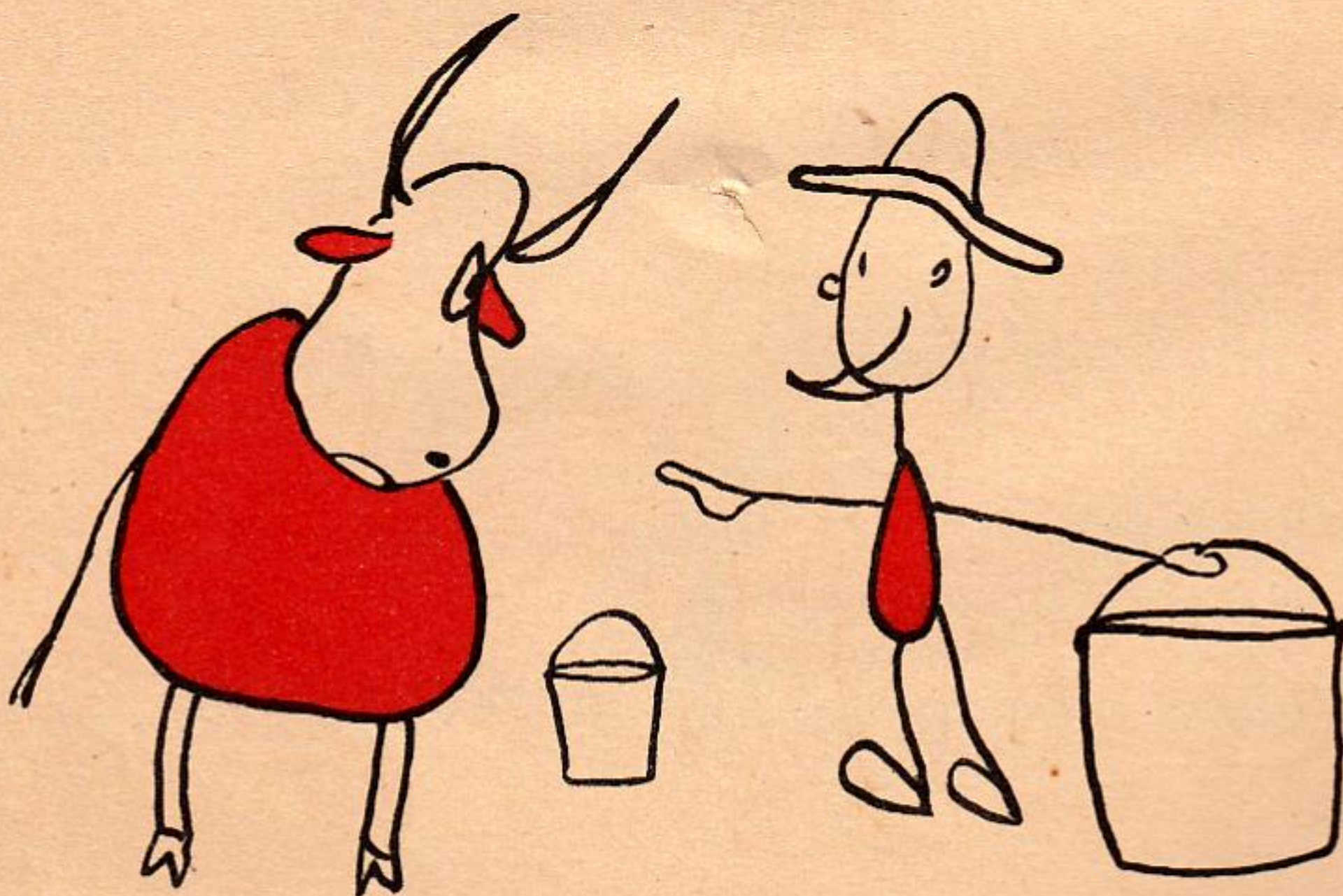
Among these Thinkers there is a kind of people we call Teachers.

These Teachers, many of them Makers and Doers themselves, pass on to others the ways they have learned to make and do things.

The Doctor who finds a new way to kill
germs and keep people well is one Thinker
we are glad to have in the world.

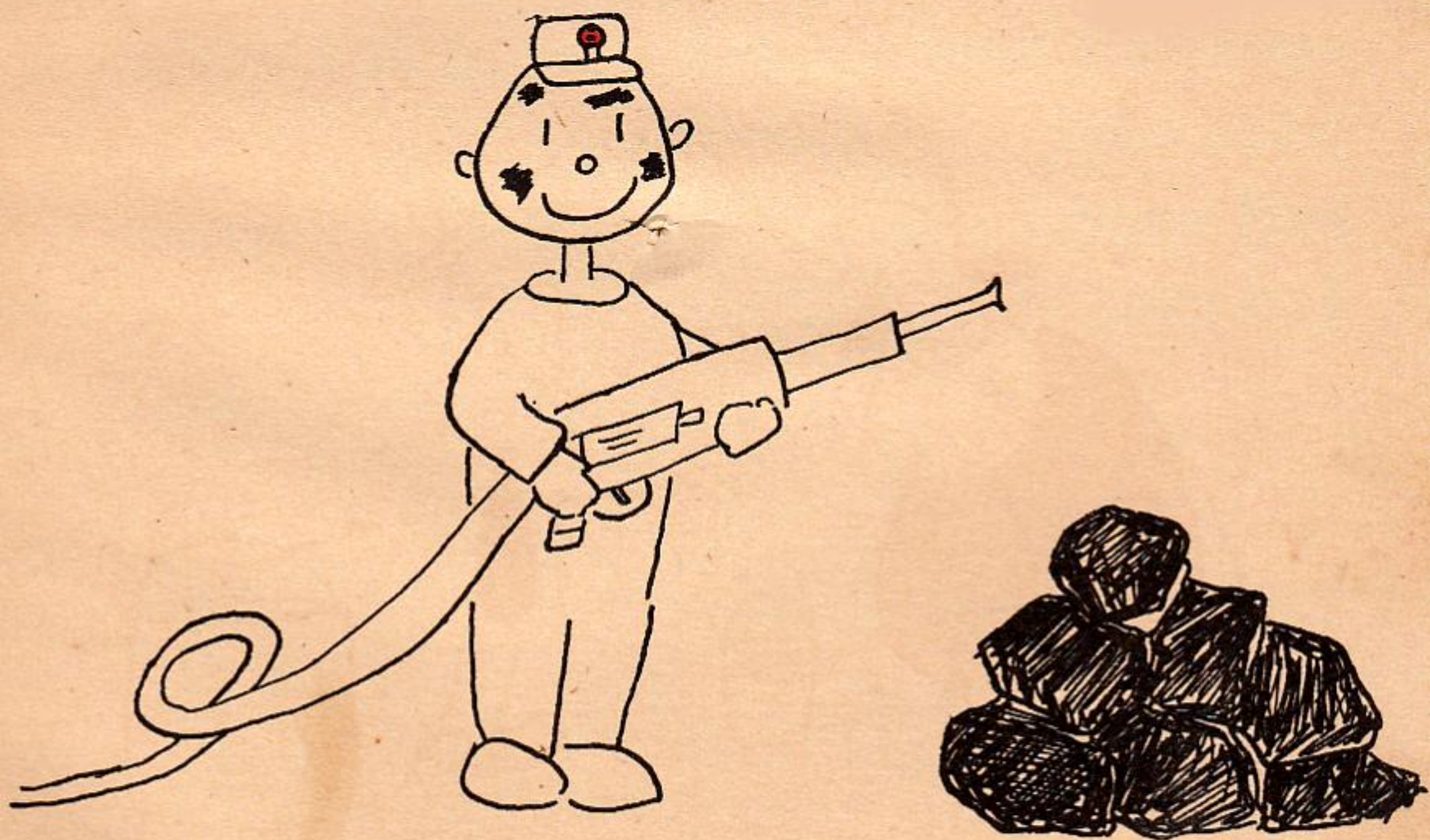


Those who find ways to make cows give
more milk or hens to lay more eggs, or land
to raise more corn, wheat and rice;



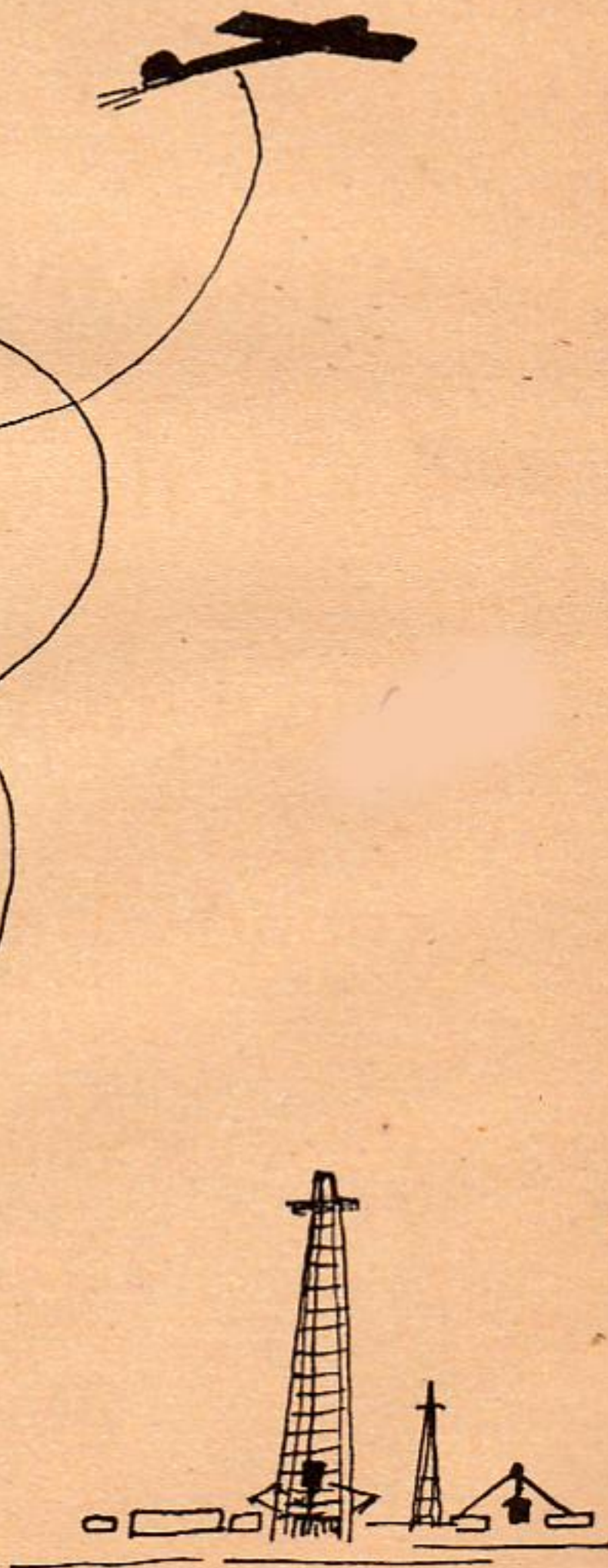
they are some of the ones who help us.

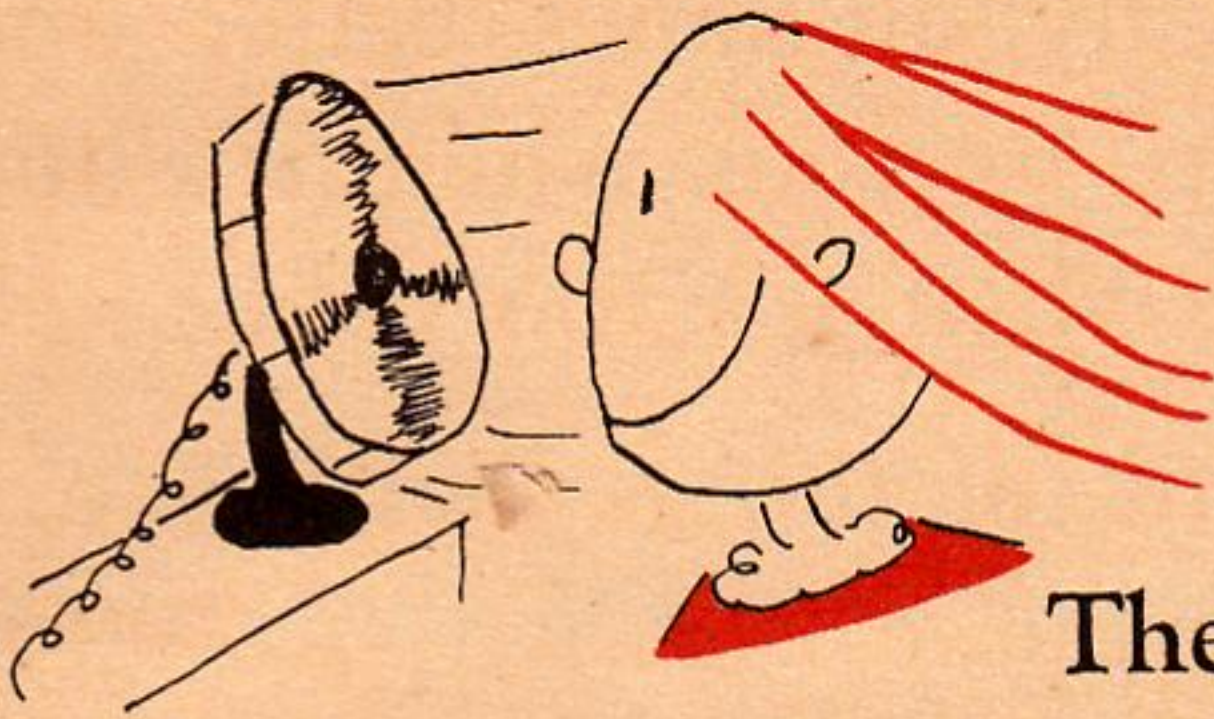
So are the Thinkers who find new ways to
dig coal faster and easier,



to find oil, to fly airplanes better and farther; to keep us cool when it's too hot, and warm when it's too cold.

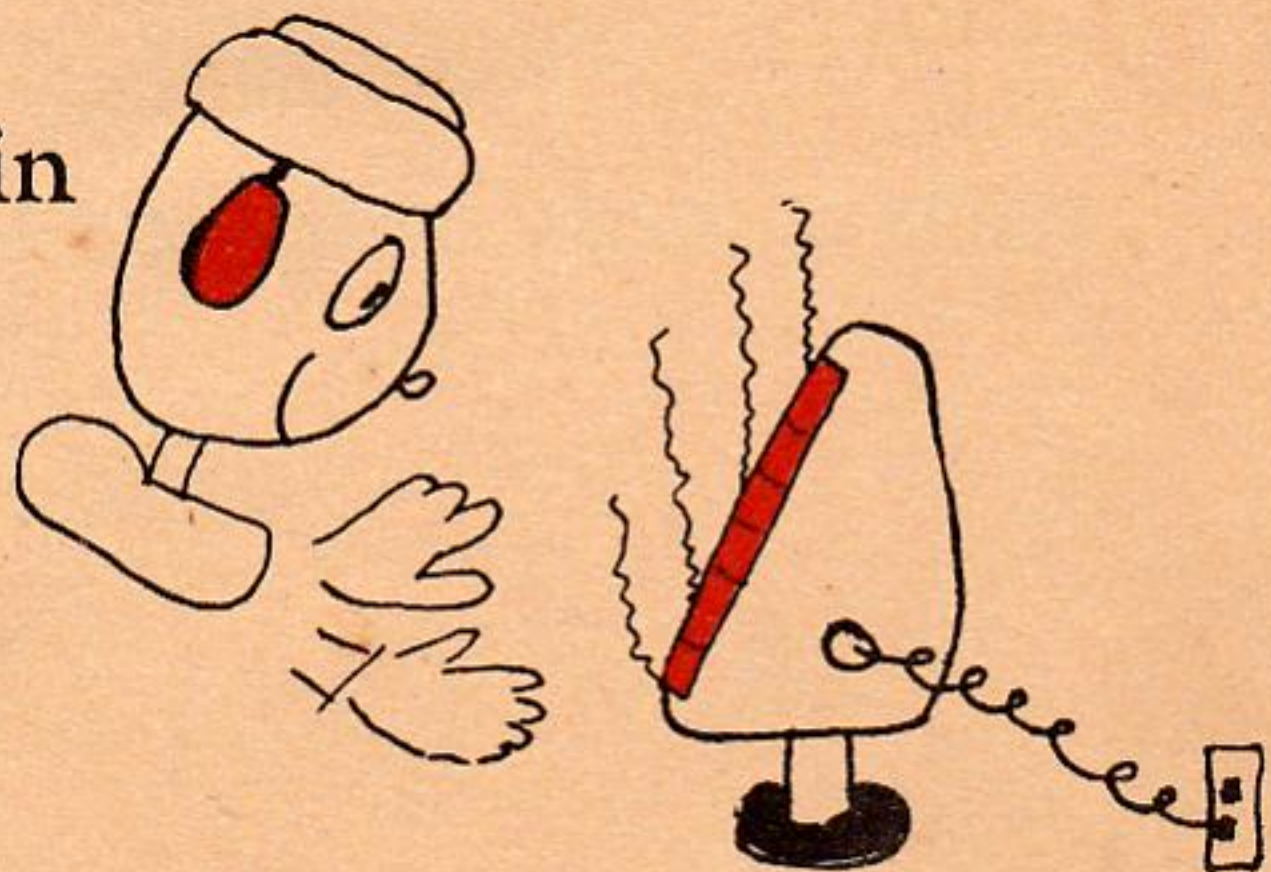
People who think of things like this are the people who make big and little countries in the world great and strong, when those countries also have wise and good Leaders.



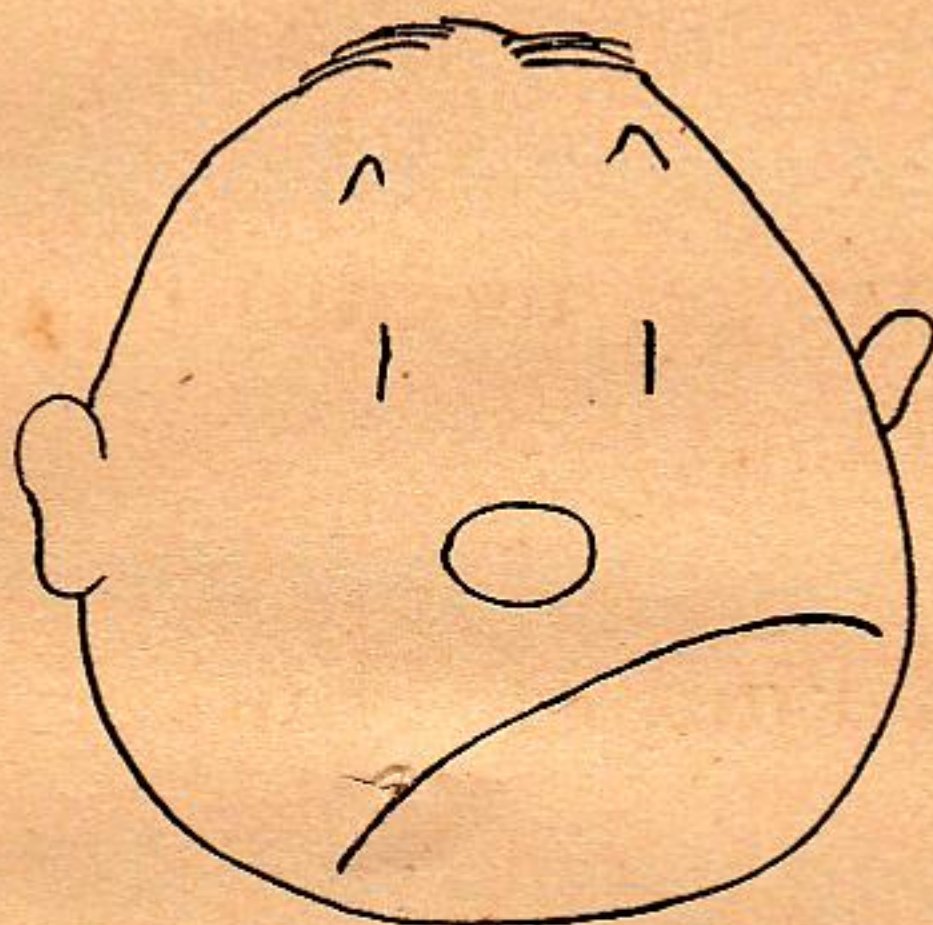


The more we have

of them in a country, and the more they
teach the good ways to make and do
things to many people, the better that
country is to live in
for everyone.



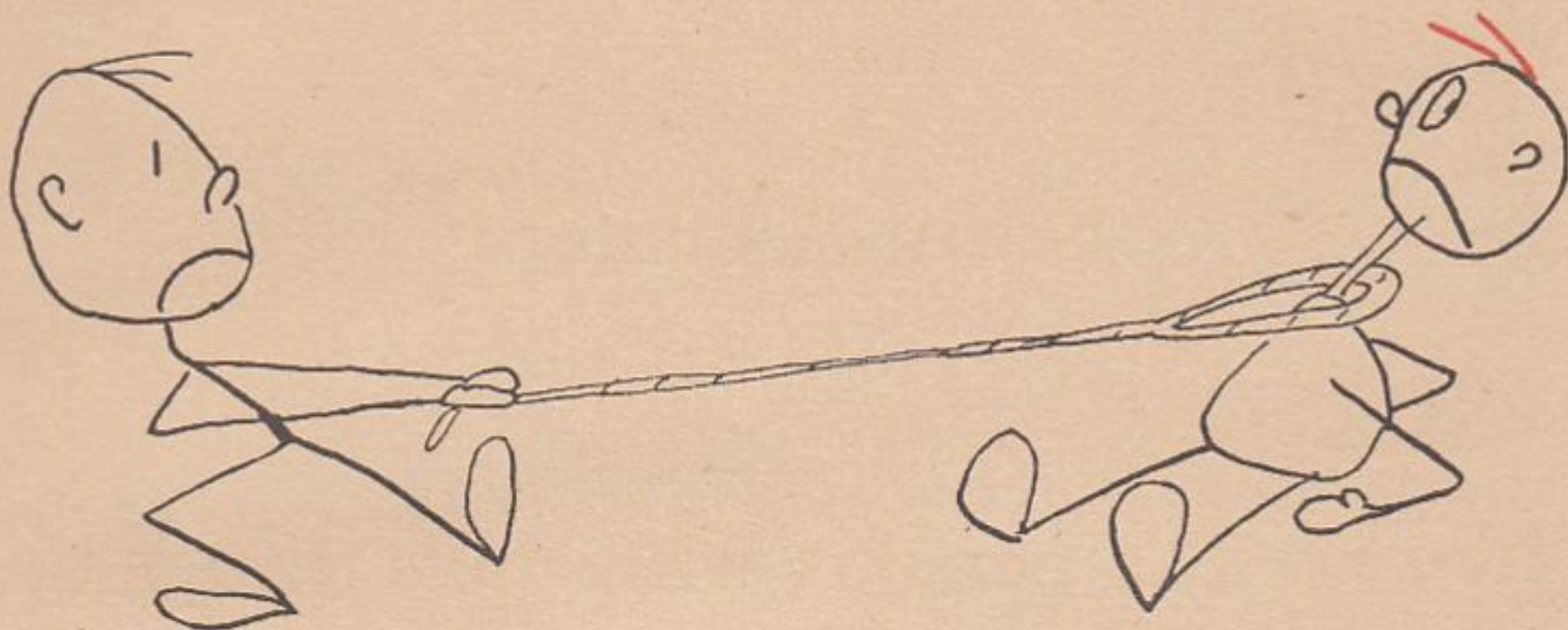
If this is so, then who are these other
Thinkers that get us into trouble? What
is this third kind of Thinker that makes
such a mess of things for the rest of us?



They are the

Selfish Cheaters.

They are the persons who mess things up,
who try to push and pull the people of the
world around while they are thinking only
of themselves.



Unfortunately they too live in every
country.



Some are rich



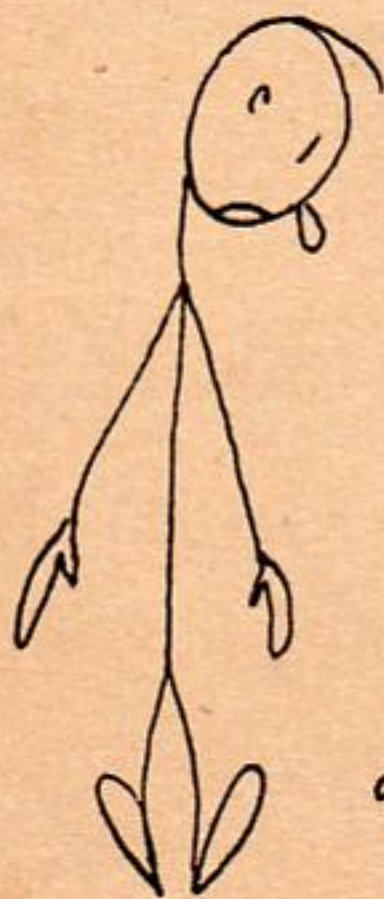
and some are poor.



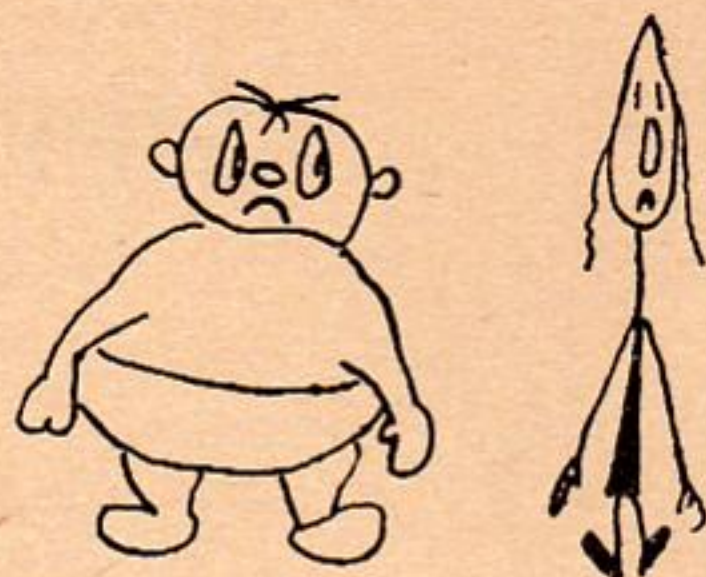
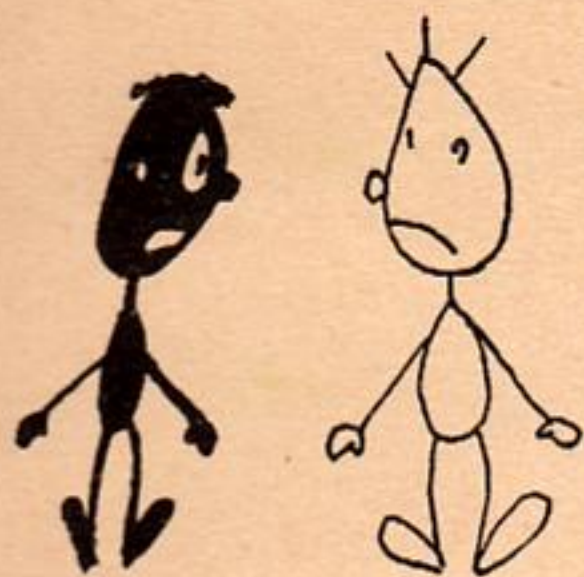
Some are strong

and some are weak,

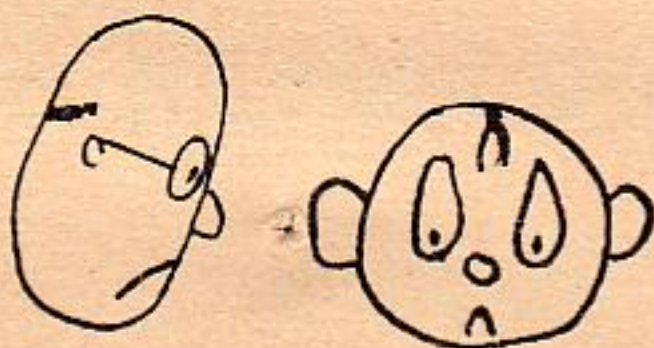
old, young,



tall, short,



dark, light, fat or skinny,
clever or stupid.

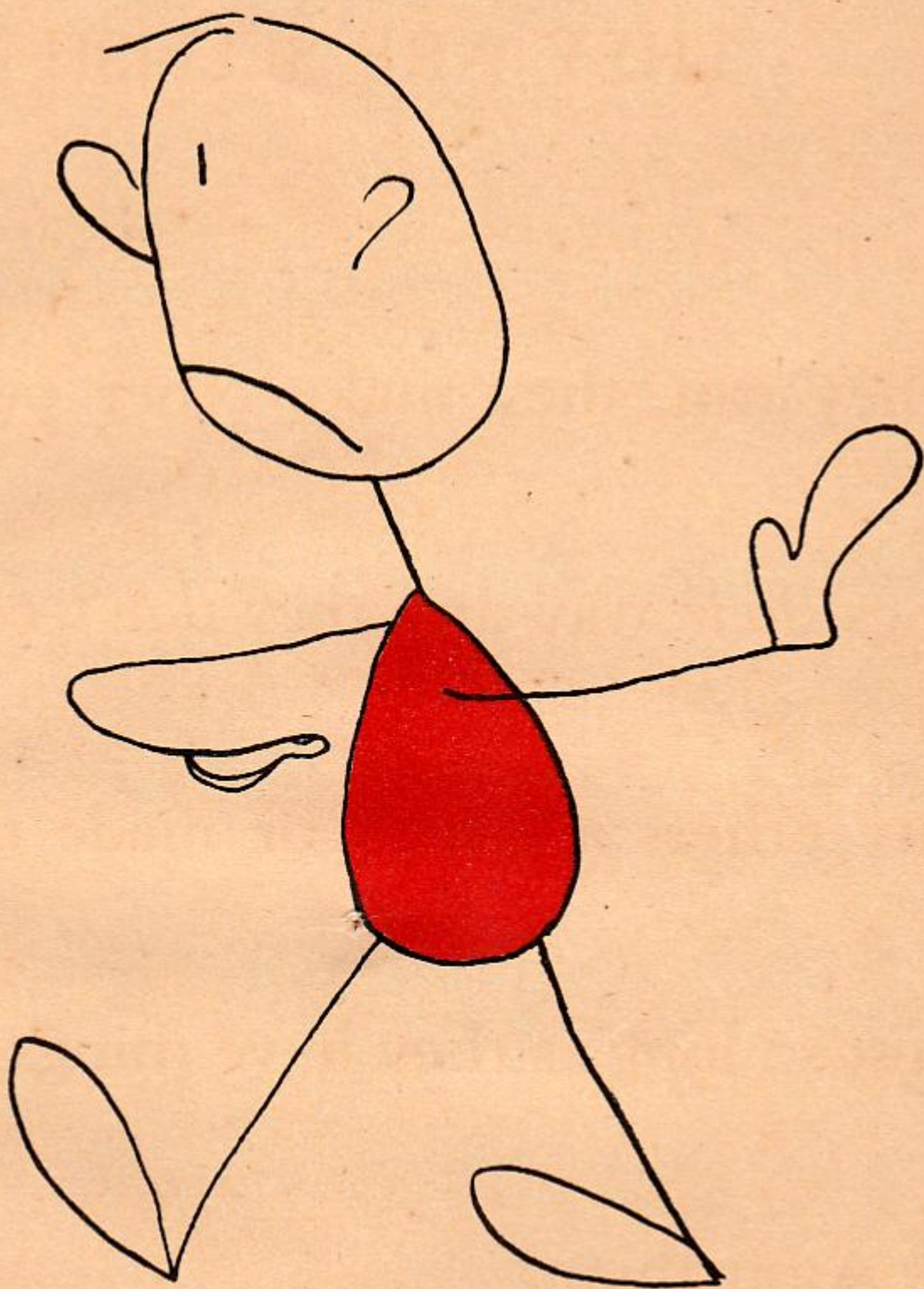


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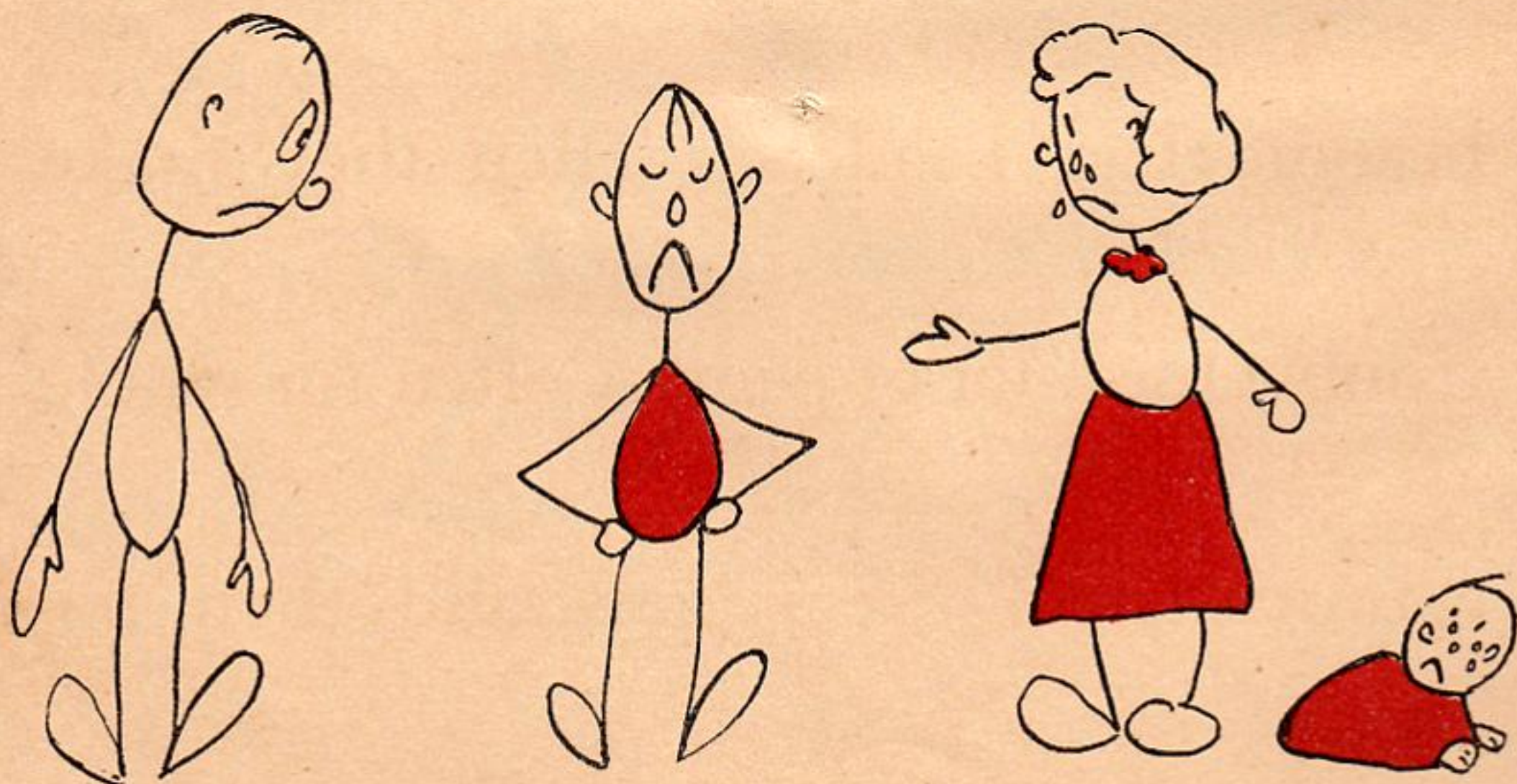
They often look like
anybody else but what makes them bad
for us and all the world is that more than
anything else

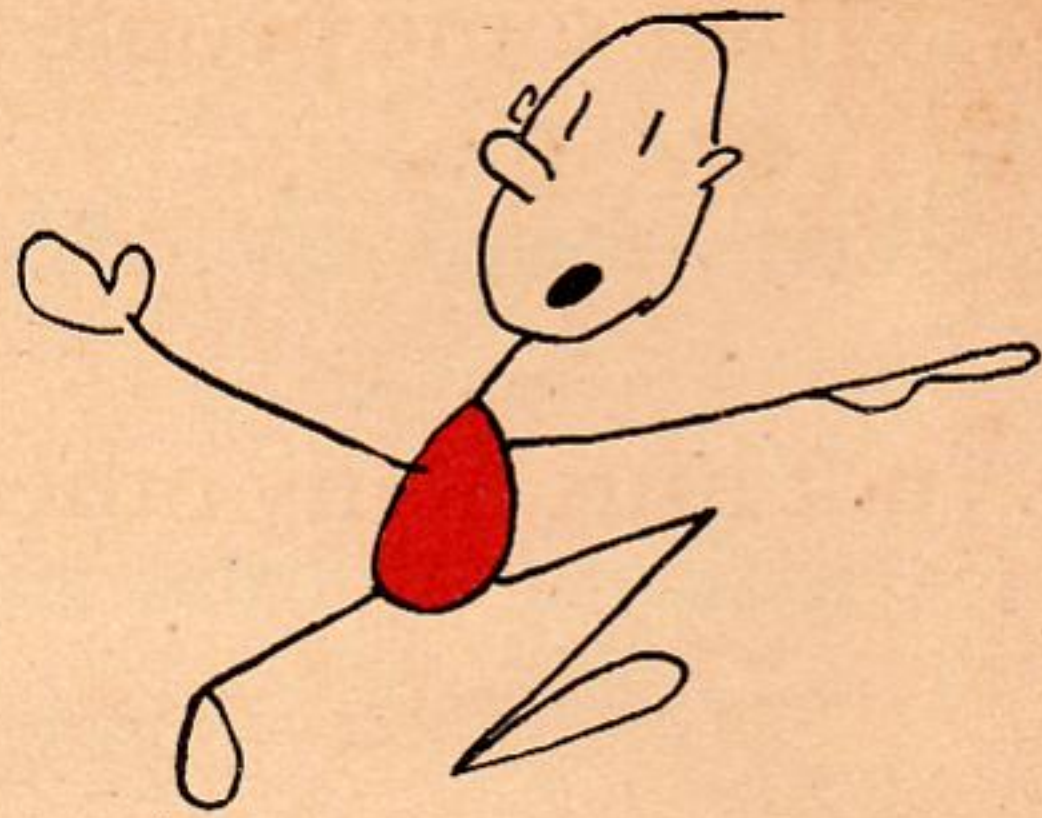
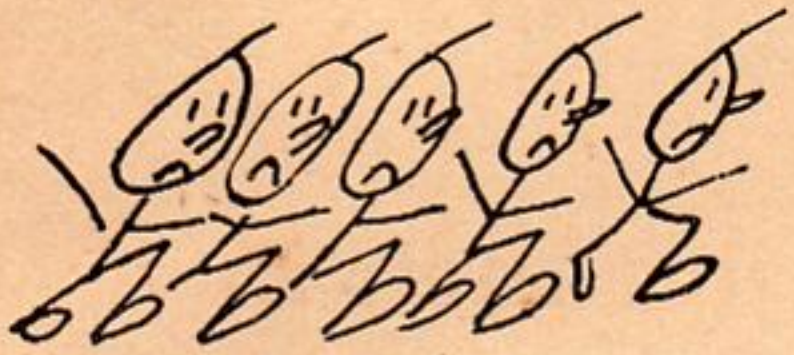
THEY ARE SELFISH

If they can, they make other people do things *their* way and *they* don't care how many others are hurt or made unhappy —just so long as they have things the way they want them.



When some people are like that, they may
not hurt many others, often just their own
families and a few who know them well.

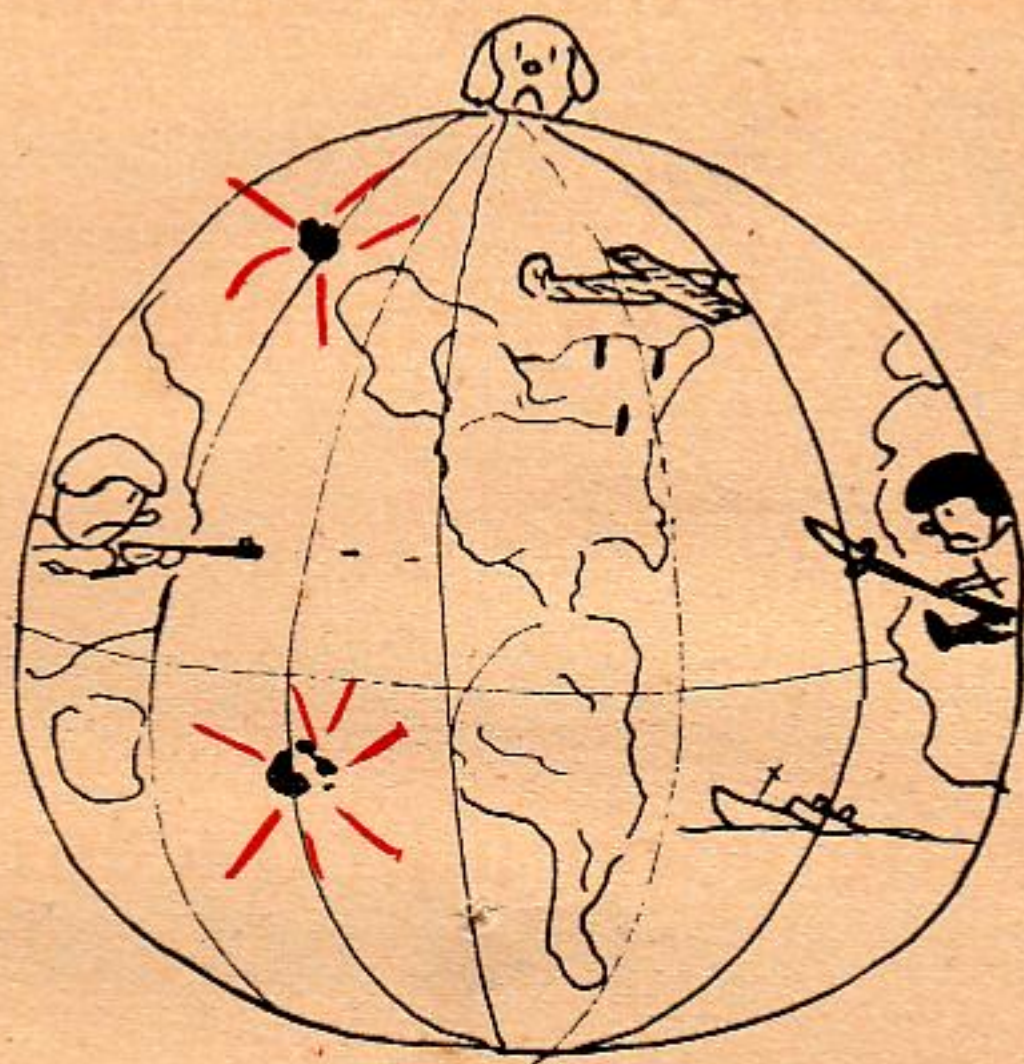




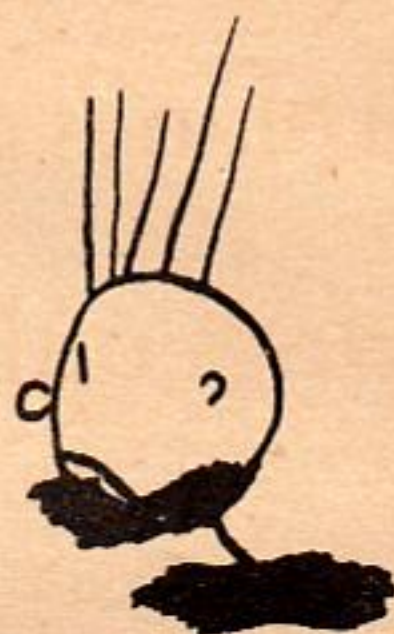
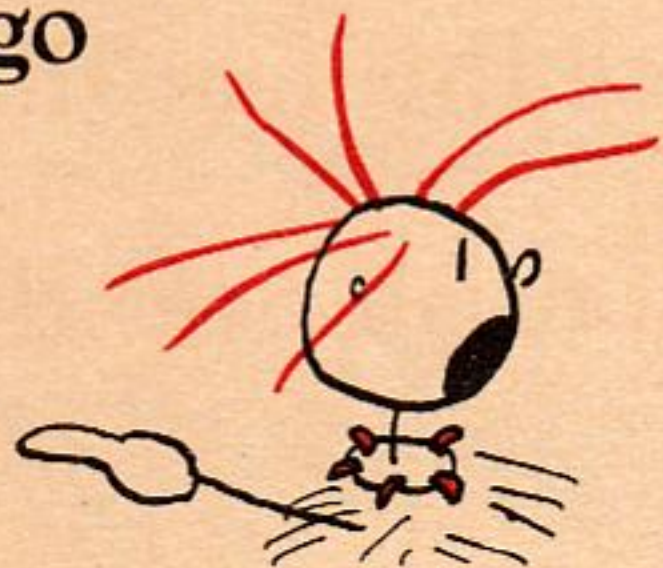
Others fool enough people sometimes to grow strong and powerful, and they become bad Leaders. Then they make trouble for a lot of people, often for whole countries and every now and then for everybody in the world.

They lead the Makers and Doers into thinking of new things and ways to hurt others instead of helping them.

Then even the good and decent people of the world who don't want to, have to do the same just to save their own lives.



That's when we find ourselves in the same
fix our ancestors were thousands of years
ago

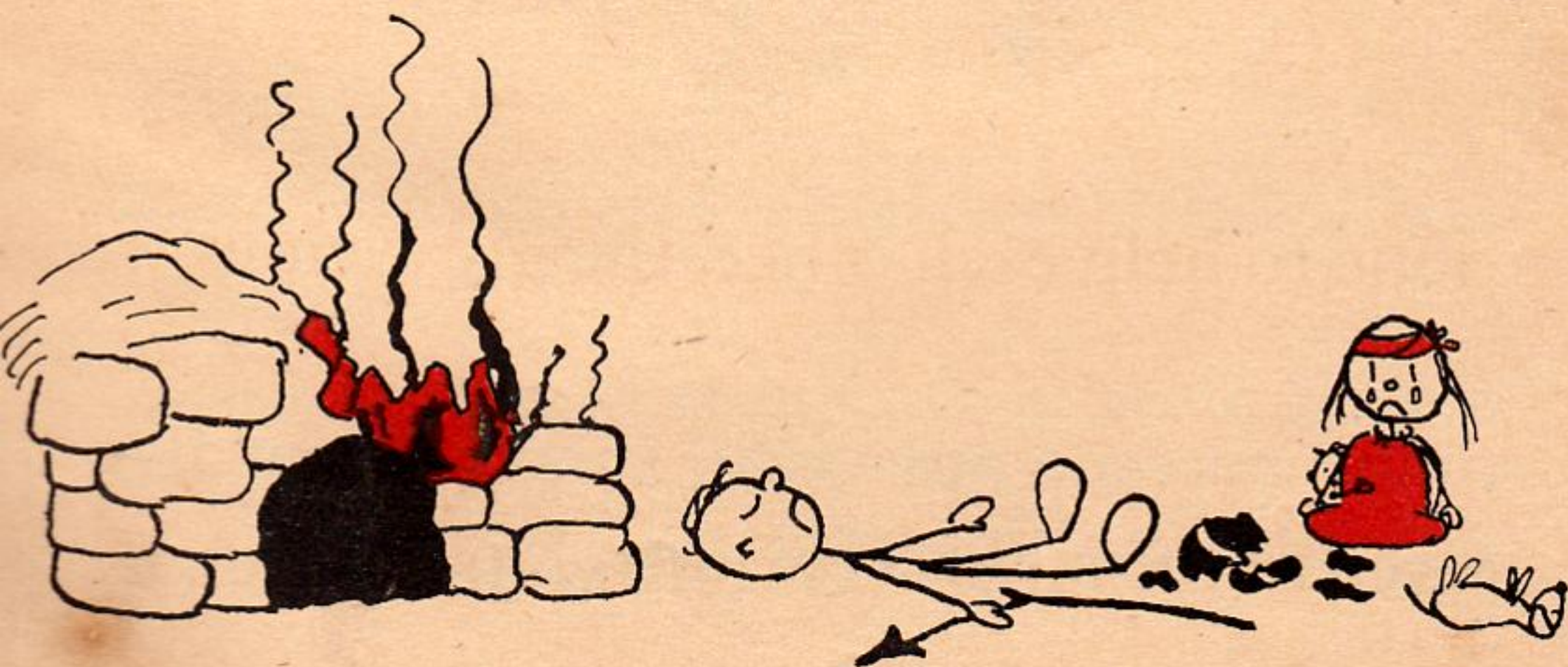


when everybody was scared.

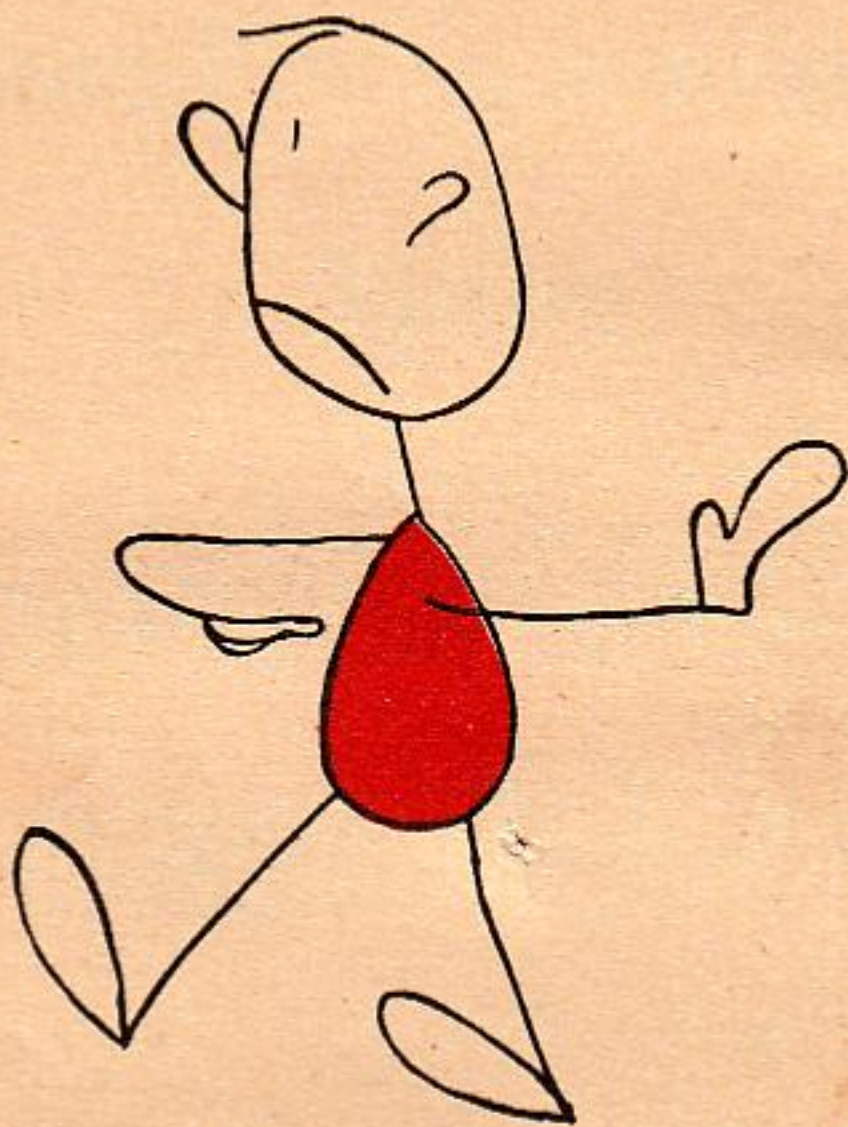
All the fine things men and women have
done to help each other, the great cities we
have built, our inventions, our medicines,

our farms, our schools, our factories, radios,
trains, motor-cars, telephones, and
airplanes can't help us to lose this fear that
brings unhappiness to millions all over the
world.

We fight wars that most of the people of
the world don't want to fight.

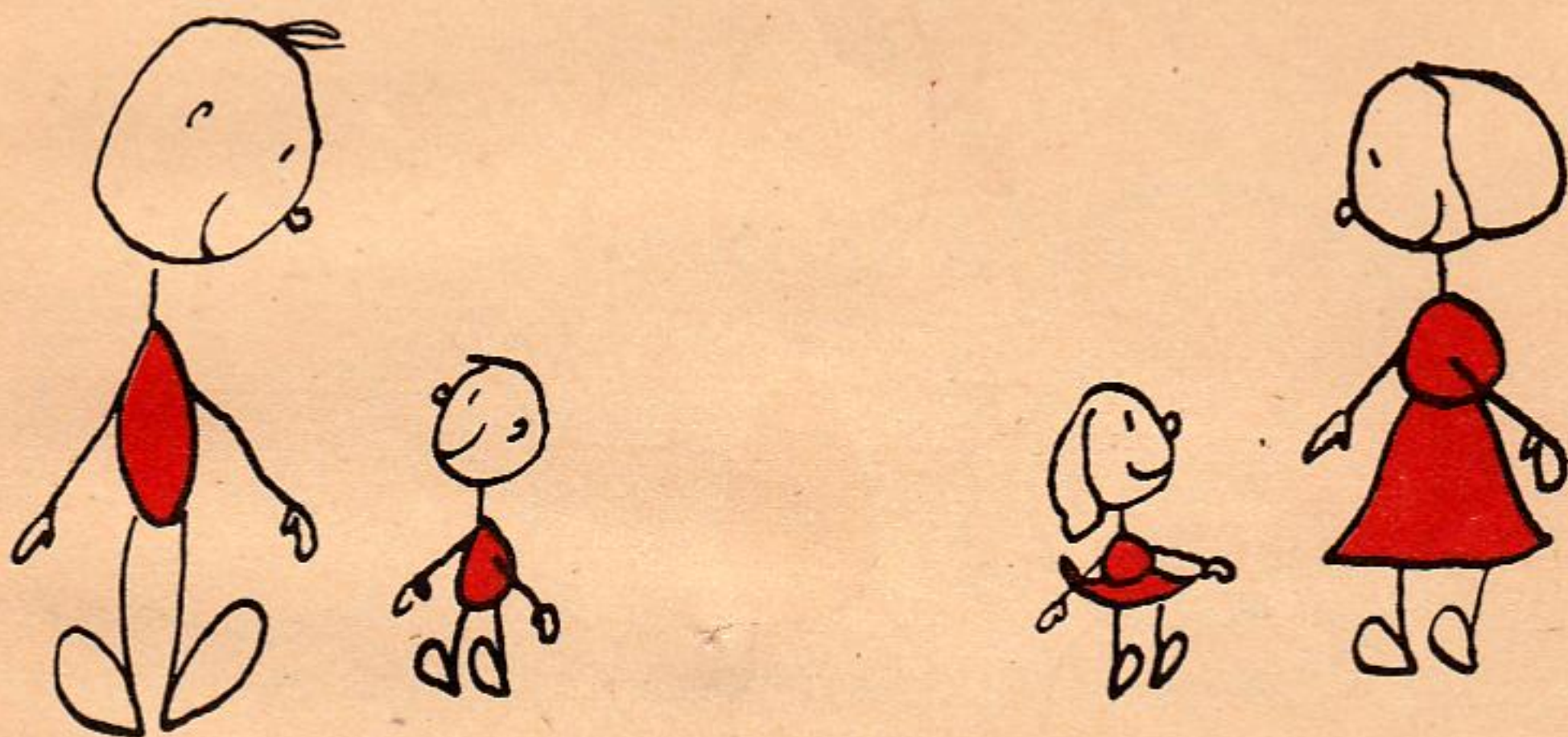


If the people of every country will be very careful about who their leaders are, and if we all see to it that the Selfish Cheaters



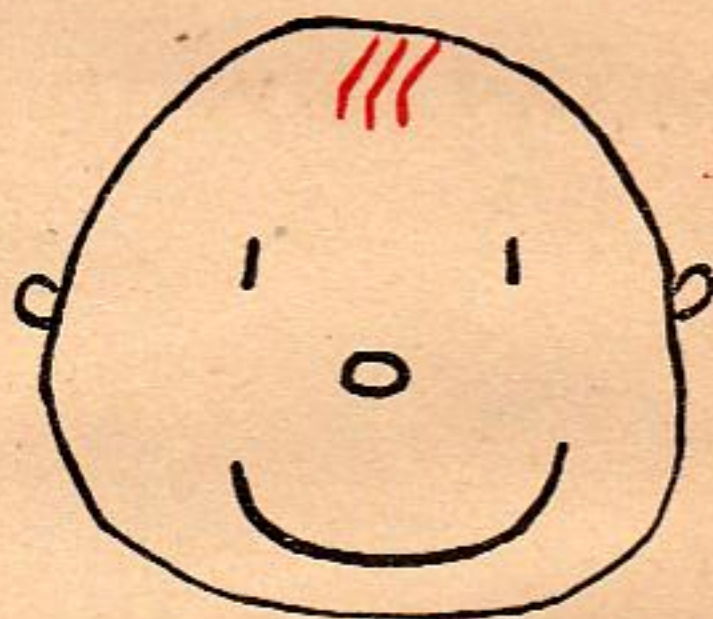
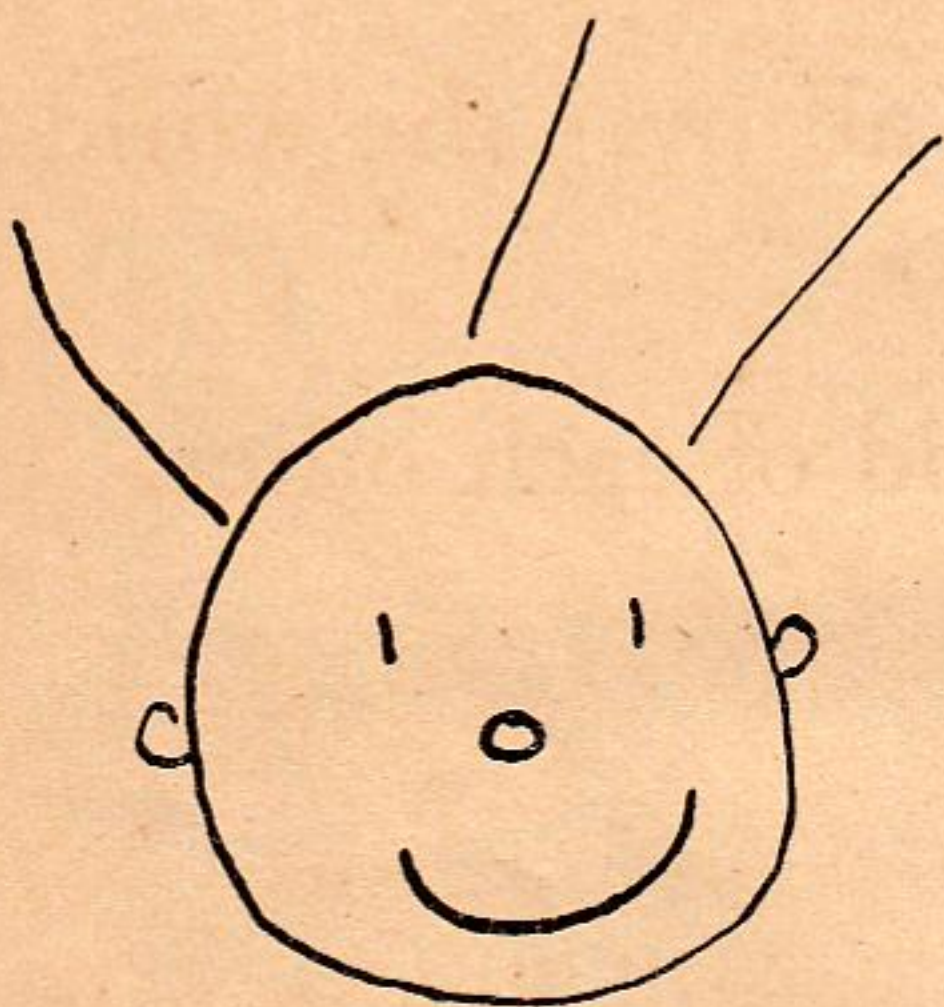
never become powerful, then we can live together in a peaceful world.

All *Thinkers*—the *Leaders*, the *Makers* and *Doers* and even the *Cheaters* are all boys and girls before they are men and women.



What we do and how we *Think* when we are young is as important as it ever is when we are older.

If we want this world to be a better place,

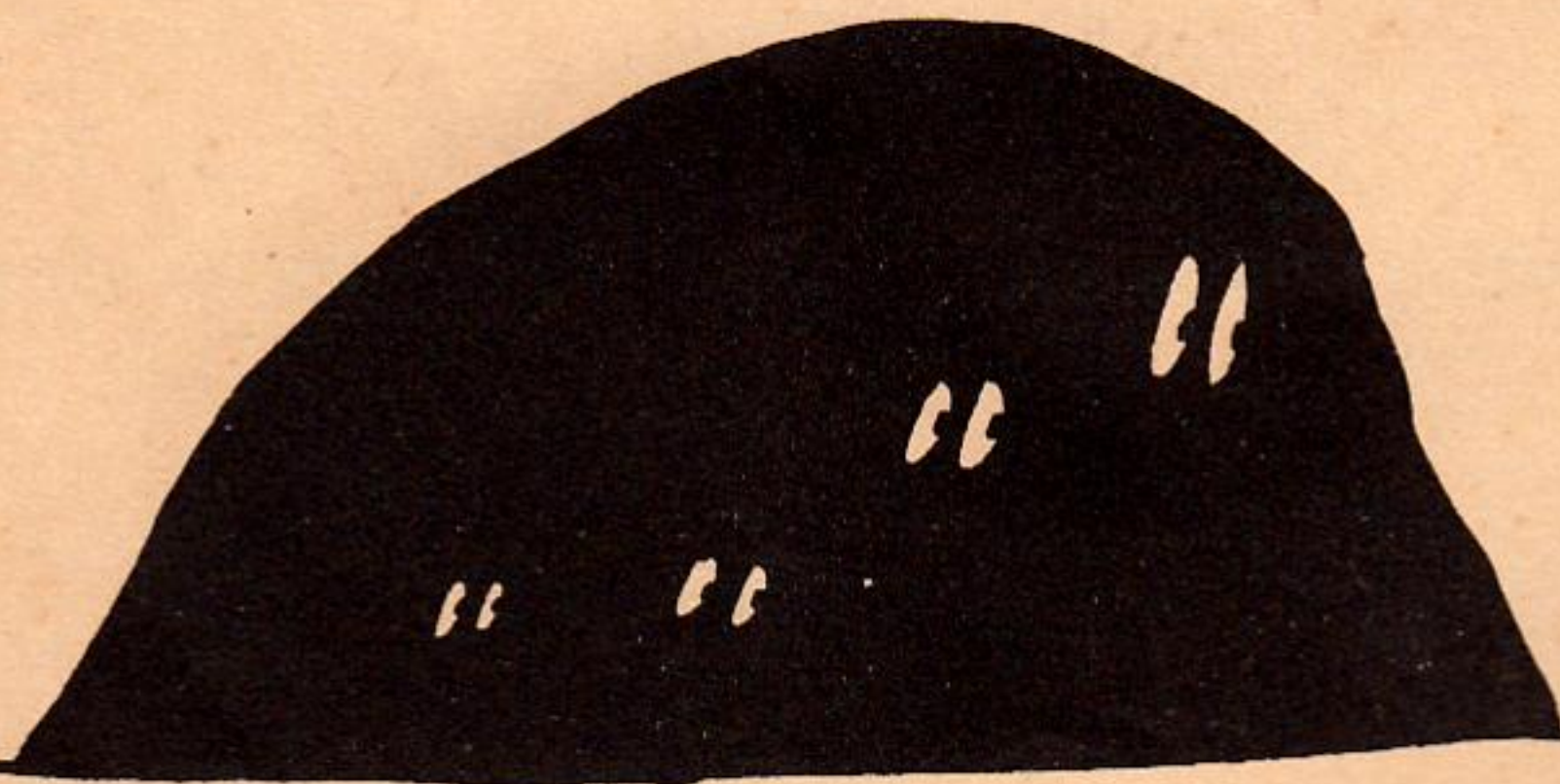
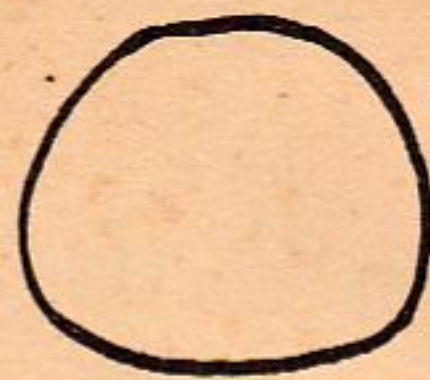


we are the ones who can make it so.

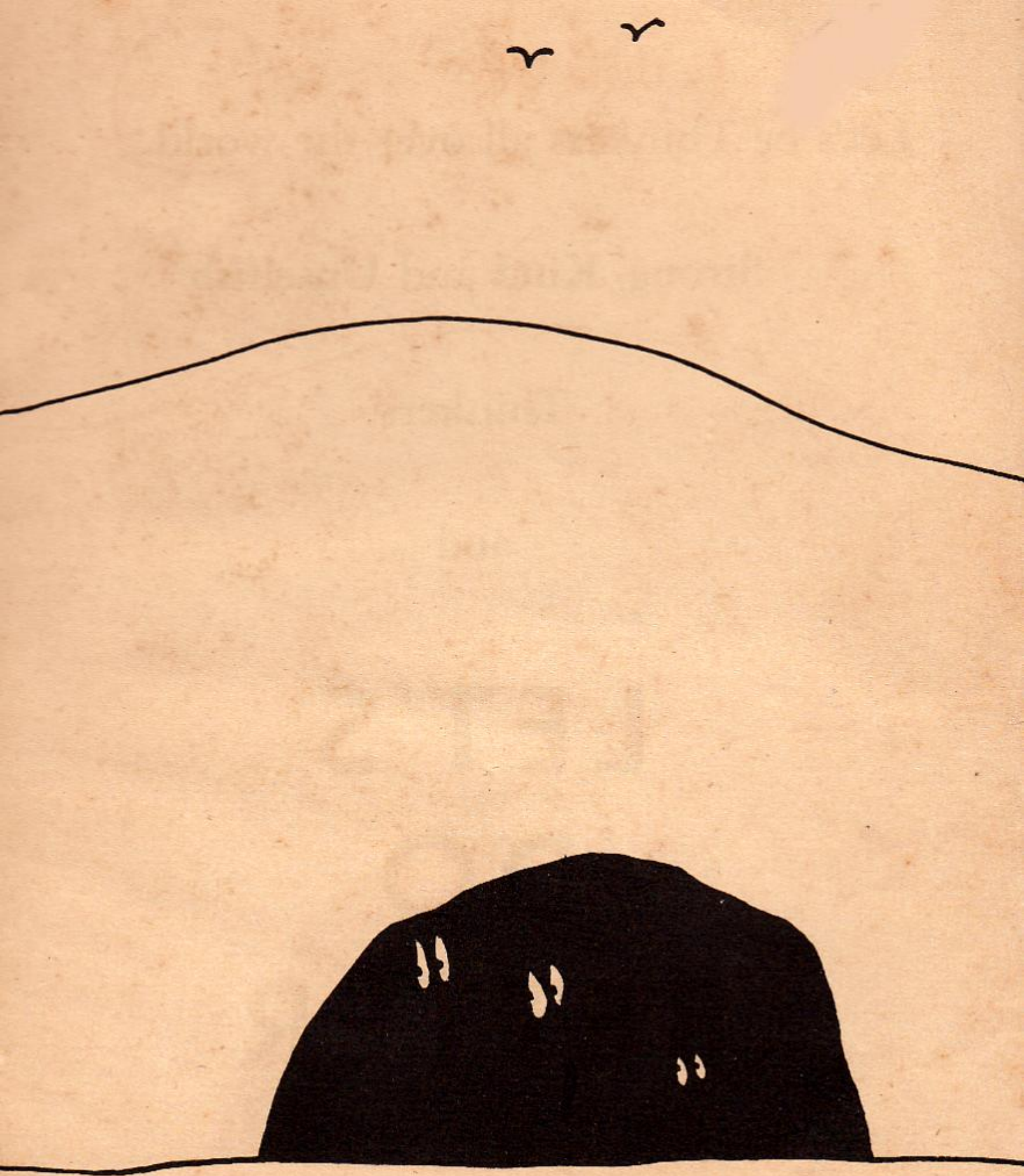
In all the years that have passed, our
ancestors have not yet learned to live
together so that people all over the world
do not have to be afraid of each other.

People in many countries still live in fear
that shells and bombs and bullets may drive
them back again to living in

dark, dank
caves to save their lives.



It could happen to any of us.



That is still a stupid and a dismal way to live.

Let's be Thinkers all over the world.

Strong, Kind and Unselfish

Thinkers

and

LET'S

DO

BETTER